

Aspect: Biodiversity


If this Aspect has been identified as material, the Guidelines make the following Standard Disclosures and Guidance available:


Overview*


DISCLOSURES ON MANAGEMENT APPROACH


G4-DMA  **Guidance: Generic DMA** pp. 64-65; **Aspect-specific** p. 100

INDICATORS

G4-EN11 **Operational sites owned, leased, managed in, or adjacent to, protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas**
 **Guidance** p. 101

G4-EN12 **Description of significant impacts of activities, products, and services on biodiversity in protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas**
 **Guidance** p. 102

G4-EN13 **Habitats protected or restored**
 **Guidance** p. 103

G4-EN14 **Total number of IUCN Red List species and national conservation list species with habitats in areas affected by operations, by level of extinction risk**
 **Guidance** p. 104

*All page numbers in this overview refer to the *Implementation Manual*.

References

- BirdLife International, *Important Bird Areas*, <http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/sites/index.html>, accessed on 1 May 2013.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), *Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories*, 2008.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Red List of Threatened Species, <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>, accessed on 1 May 2013.
- Ramsar Convention, 'The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat', 1994.
- United Nations (UN) Convention, 'Convention on Biological Diversity', 1992.
- United Nations (UN) Convention, 'Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)', 1979.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Biosphere Reserves, www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/, accessed on 1 May 2013.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Heritage Sites List, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>, accessed on 1 May 2013.

GUIDANCE - DISCLOSURES ON MANAGEMENT APPROACH

Aspect-specific Guidance for G4-DMA-b.

Describe the organization's strategy for achieving its policy on biodiversity management. An example of this is the

integration of biodiversity considerations in analytical tools, such as environmental site impact assessments.

Indicators

G4-EN11

OPERATIONAL SITES OWNED, LEASED, MANAGED IN, OR ADJACENT TO, PROTECTED AREAS AND AREAS OF HIGH BIODIVERSITY VALUE OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS

- a. Report the following information for each operational site owned, leased, managed in, or adjacent to, protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas:
- Geographic location
 - Subsurface and underground land that may be owned, leased, or managed by the organization
 - Position in relation to the protected area (in the area, adjacent to, or containing portions of the protected area) or the high biodiversity value area outside protected areas
 - Type of operation (office, manufacturing or production, or extractive)
 - Size of operational site in km²
 - Biodiversity value characterized by:
 - The attribute of the protected area or high biodiversity value area outside the protected area (terrestrial, freshwater, or maritime ecosystem)
 - Listing of protected status (such as IUCN Protected Area Management Categories⁶⁷, Ramsar Convention⁷⁸, national legislation)

GUIDANCE

Relevance

By reporting on the potential impact on land that lies within, contains, or is adjacent to legally protected areas, and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas, an organization can identify and understand certain risks associated with biodiversity. Monitoring which activities are taking place in both protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas makes it possible for the organization to reduce the risks of impacts. It also makes it possible for the organization to manage impacts on biodiversity or to avoid mismanagement. Failure to adequately manage such impacts may result in reputational damage, delays in obtaining planning permission, and the loss of the social license to operate.

Compilation

Identify the location and size of operational sites that are owned, leased, managed in, adjacent to, or that contain, protected areas or areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas. Include information about sites for which future operations have been formally announced.

Definitions

See Glossary in *Implementation Manual*, p. 244

- Areas of high biodiversity value
- Protected areas

Documentation sources

Potential sources of information include purchase contracts, lease contracts, or the national or regional land registry.

On the national level, public agencies responsible for environmental protection and conservation may keep information on internationally and nationally protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value. In addition, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans often include information and registers of protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value.

G4-EN12

DESCRIPTION OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS OF ACTIVITIES, PRODUCTS, AND SERVICES ON BIODIVERSITY IN PROTECTED AREAS AND AREAS OF HIGH BIODIVERSITY VALUE OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS

- a. Report the nature of significant direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity with reference to one or more of the following:
 - Construction or use of manufacturing plants, mines, and transport infrastructure
 - Pollution (introduction of substances that do not naturally occur in the habitat from point and non-point sources)
 - Introduction of invasive species, pests, and pathogens
 - Reduction of species
 - Habitat conversion
 - Changes in ecological processes outside the natural range of variation (such as salinity or changes in groundwater level)
- b. Report significant direct and indirect positive and negative impacts with reference to the following:
 - Species affected
 - Extent of areas impacted
 - Duration of impacts
 - Reversibility or irreversibility of the impacts

GUIDANCE**Relevance**

This Indicator provides information on the significant direct and indirect impacts of the organization on biodiversity in protected areas and areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas. It also provides the background for understanding (and developing) an organizational strategy to mitigate these impacts. Through the presentation of structured and qualitative information, the Indicator enables comparison of the relative size, scale, and nature of impacts over time and across organizations.

Compilation

Identify significant positive and negative impacts on biodiversity associated with activities, products, and services of the organization, including both direct impacts as well as indirect impacts (such as in the supply chain).

Areas of impact are not limited to areas that are formally protected and include consideration of impacts on buffer zones as well as formally designated areas of special importance or sensitivity.

Definitions

See Glossary in *Implementation Manual*, p. 244

- [Areas of high biodiversity value](#)
- [Significant impact for biodiversity](#)

Documentation sources

Potential sources of information include the organization's environmental management system or other internal documentation. Information may also be obtained from environmental and social impact assessments or lifecycle assessments, and from other organizations upstream and downstream.

G4-EN13

HABITATS PROTECTED OR RESTORED

- a. Report the size and location of all habitat protected areas or restored areas, and whether the success of the restoration measure was or is approved by independent external professionals.
- b. Report whether partnerships exist with third parties to protect or restore habitat areas distinct from where the organization has overseen and implemented restoration or protection measures.
- c. Report on the status of each area based on its condition at the close of the reporting period.
- d. Report standards, methodologies, and assumptions used.

GUIDANCE**Relevance**

Ensuring the integrity of natural habitats can enhance the reputation of the organization, the stability of its surrounding natural environment and resources, and its acceptance by surrounding communities. A biodiversity strategy contains a combination of elements related to the prevention, management, and remediation of damage to natural habitats resulting from the organization's activities. This Indicator measures the implementation of a specific strategy for preventing or redressing negative impacts associated with activities.

Compilation

This Indicator refers to areas in which remediation has been completed or the area is actively protected (see Definitions). Areas in which operations are still active can be counted if they conform to the definitions of 'restored' or 'protected'.

If there are regulatory or license requirements for the protection or restoration of habitats, the information presented in this Indicator is to align with those requirements.

Definitions

See Glossary in *Implementation Manual*, p. 244

- [Areas protected](#)
- [Areas restored](#)

Documentation sources

Information on protected areas can be found in the documentation of the organization's environmental management system, site plans, environmental and social impact assessments, or organizational policies.

Information on land restoration (that is, requirements for land restoration) can be found in lease, rent, or purchase contracts of the land, or in environmental and social impact assessments or risk registers.

G4-EN14

TOTAL NUMBER OF IUCN RED LIST SPECIES AND NATIONAL CONSERVATION LIST SPECIES WITH HABITATS IN AREAS AFFECTED BY OPERATIONS, BY LEVEL OF EXTINCTION RISK

- a. Report the total number of IUCN Red List species and national conservation list species with habitats in areas affected by the operations of the organization, by level of extinction risk:
- Critically endangered
 - Endangered
 - Vulnerable
 - Near threatened
 - Least concern

GUIDANCE

Relevance

This Indicator helps the organization to identify where its activities pose a threat to endangered plant and animal species. By identifying these threats, the organization can initiate appropriate steps to avoid harm and to prevent the extinction of species. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and national conservation lists serve as authorities on the sensitivity of habitat in areas affected by operations, and on the relative importance of these habitats from a management perspective.

Compilation

Identify the location of habitats affected by the operations of the organization that include species on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, and on national or regional conservation lists.

Compare the information in the abovementioned lists with the species outlined in planning documentation and monitoring records to ensure consistency. Use this information to identify the total number of species in habitats for each extinction risk category.

Definitions

See Glossary in *Implementation Manual*, p. 244

- [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#)

Documentation sources

Potential sources of information on the presence of species on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and national conservation lists include national or regional conservation agencies, local authorities, or environmental NGOs. For organizations operating in or adjacent to protected areas or areas of high biodiversity value, planning studies or other permit materials may also contain information about the biodiversity within the protected areas.

References

- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Red List of Threatened Species, <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>, accessed on 1 May 2013.