



Development Planning, Environment & Management Unit Environmental Planning & Climate Protection

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The Biodiversity Impact Assessment Process

In order to protect Durban's remaining open spaces as far as possible, the Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) Branch of the Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department (EPCPD) is responsible for assessing, and in some cases, regulating development that is proposed within or adjacent to Durban Metropolitan Open Space System (D'MOSS) to ensure that biodiversity is protected and the supply of ecosystem goods and services is maintained.

The development applications that are received by the department include building plans, special consent applications, rezoning applications, subdivision applications and fully fledged environmental impact assessments. The BIA Branch will assess the potential impact on the environment of the proposed development and then make its recommendations for approval, approval with conditions, or refusal of the application. Where approval is given it is likely to be subject to significant controls to ensure that the biodiversity of the designated land is not negatively affected.

Your development may require formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) authorisation from the competent authority (national or provincial Department of Environmental Affairs), or you may only require municipal approval. Thus, in order to assist developers, planners, engineers, architects, Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) and the general public the following recommendations are offered as guidelines for submissions to our department.

Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) Branch

The role of this branch within the EPCPD of the EThekwini Municipality is to assess the potential impacts of development on biodiversity and D'MOSS and to initiate biodiversity related enforcement action when needed. Furthermore, we are required to consider the impacts of climate change on development.

Key Tasks

- To assess and comment on all building plans and planning applications where the proposed development lies within or adjacent to D'MOSS or watercourses
- To assess and comment on **all Environmental Impact Assessments** and **all Mining Applications** that may impact on D'MOSS, biodiversity or ecosystem goods and services
- To assess the impact of climate change on proposed developments
- To monitor development to ensure that conditions of approval are complied with
- To ensure enforcement where illegal activities impact negatively on D'MOSS, biodiversity, or ecosystem goods and services, and
- To ensure that all municipal development projects comply with National, Provincial and Local environmental legislation and policy.

The BIA Branch is comprised of **two sections**, Biodiversity Impact Assessment (**Private Developments**) and Biodiversity Impact Assessment and Municipal Compliance (**Municipal Projects**).

Manager: Biodiversity Impact Assessment – Chumisa Thengwa

Regional Coordinator (RC): Biodiversity Impact Assessment (Private Developments) – Michelle Lotz
(Michelle.Lotz@Durban.gov.za)

Regional Coordinator: Biodiversity Impact Assessment and Municipal Compliance (Municipal Projects) – Sibongile Dlamini
(Sibongile.Dlamini2@Durban.gov.za)

The process for submitting an EIA or BAR is as follows:

For private development EIAs & BARs – submit electronic copies of each report (including appendices and specialist reports) to Batha Msomi, email: Batha.Msomi@Durban.gov.za tel: 031 311 7940, for circulation to the relevant Municipal Departments for comment. All further correspondence relating to EIAs should also be sent to Batha for circulation purposes. If there are challenges, please contact the RC for private developments – Michelle Lotz. **Electronic copies can be sent via email or where size constraints are a concern, via DropBox or WeTransfer links.**

For municipal development EIAs & BARs – submit electronic copies of each report (including appendices and specialist reports) to Batha Msomi, email: Batha.Msomi@Durban.gov.za tel: 031 311 7940, for circulation to the relevant Municipal Departments for comment. All further correspondence relating to EIAs should also be sent to Batha for circulation purposes. If there are challenges, please contact the RC for municipal projects – Sibongile Dlamini. **Electronic copies can be sent via email or where size constraints are a concern, via DropBox or WeTransfer links.**

The process of submitting an environmentally related town planning application, or an environmental enquiry or complaint relating to D'MOSS and/or development is as follows:

Private environmental submissions or enquiries – submit an enquiry on the official enquiry form or as an email to our database administrator, Thenjiwe Msani (Thenjiwe.Msani@durban.gov.za) and CC the relevant RC, Michelle Lotz. We will assign a reference number and allocate an assessing officer to your case.

Municipal submissions / enquiries – submit an enquiry on the official enquiry form or as an email to our database administrator, Thenjiwe Msani (Thenjiwe.Msani@durban.gov.za) and CC the relevant RC, Sibongile Dlamini. We will assign a reference number and allocate an assessing officer to your case.

All environmental complaints – whether private or public, should be addressed to Sibongile Dlamini (Sibongile.Dlamini2@Durban.gov.za) (and CC Thenjiwe (Thenjiwe.Msani@durban.gov.za)).

Specific timeframes are applicable to specific submissions; these timeframes are attached separately for your reference. The assessing officer is required to carry the case to closure, with oversight from the RC, and only where necessary, the branch manager. All correspondence should thus be addressed to the assessing officer once known, and the RC for completeness (cc-d).

Biodiversity Planning (BP) Branch

The role of this branch is to identify Durban's important terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments, and to protect and manage these environments as part of the Durban Metropolitan Open Space System.

Key Tasks

- To identify those areas that must be secured as part of D'MOSS
- To develop and implement tools aimed at securing conservation worthy land
- To develop and implement strategies to deal with specific threats to Durban's natural environment
- To report on the State of Biodiversity in Durban, and
- To form partnerships with a range of internal and external stakeholders to protect and manage municipal biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services.

Manager: Biodiversity Planning – Position Vacant (ex- Richard Boon: Sabelo Nkosi acting)

The BP branch also provides specialist input and guidance during EIAs and the various aforementioned Environmental Enquiries when BIA feels this support is warranted.

FURTHER INFORMATION

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND CLIMATE PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

BACKGROUND

The environmental management function of the municipality now known as the Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department (or EPCPD) was established in 1994. The department has grown from a single staff member to a fully-fledged department with a current staff complement of over 50. Our area of jurisdiction increased as the municipal area grew in size from 300km² to 2,290 km² – extending from a highly urbanised city core to a tribally controlled rural periphery. EPCPD is made up of the following branches, with their associated roles:

Biodiversity Impact Assessment Branch (BIA)

- To assess the potential impacts of development on the Durban Metropolitan Open Space System (D'MOSS) and to initiate biodiversity related enforcement action when needed.
- To consider the impacts of climate change on development.
- Contact: Regional Co-ordinator Private Developments – Michelle Lotz Michelle.Lotz@durban.gov.za (see team composition below).
- Contact: Regional Co-ordinator Municipal Developments & Environmental Complaints – Sibongile Dlamini Sibongile.Dlamini2@durban.gov.za.

Biodiversity Planning Branch (BP)

- To identify Durban's important terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments.
- To protect and manage these environments as part of D'MOSS.
- Contact: Acting Manager – Sabelo Nkosi (Sabelo.Nkosi@durban.gov.za)

Climate Protection Branch (CP)

- To oversee the development and implementation of the Municipal Climate Protection Programme. This includes the development and implementation of appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies and projects.
- Contact: Manager – Sean O'donoghue Sean.ODonoghue@durban.gov.za

Energy Office (EO)

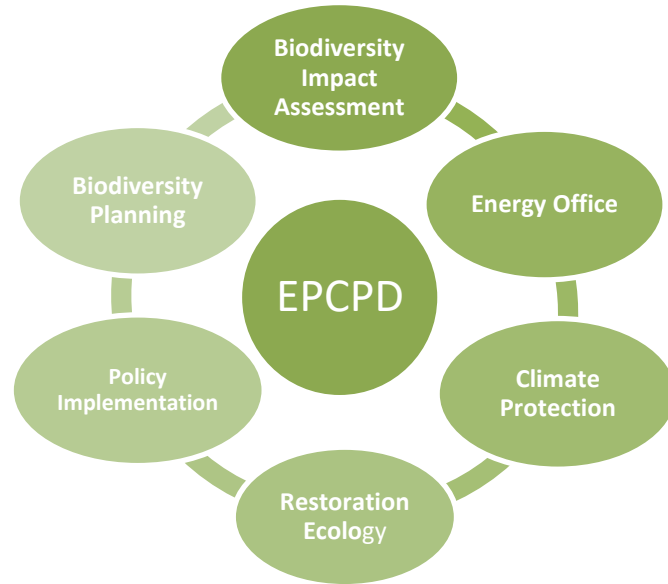
- To conceptualise and initiate projects in the following areas:
 - Renewable Energy (RE) (generating energy from renewable sources, such as the sun)
 - Energy Efficiency (EE) (helping use less energy), and
 - Climate Change Mitigation (reducing our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions).
- Contact: Manager – Magash Naidoo Magash.Naidoo@durban.gov.za

Policy Implementation Branch (PIB)

- To ensure that other municipal departments, decision makers and the public consider biodiversity, ecosystem goods and services and climate protection issues in the development of policies, strategies, plans, programmes and projects.
- Contact: Manager – Joanne Douwes Joanne.Douwes@durban.gov.za

Restoration Ecology Branch (RE)

- To design and implement large scale ecological restoration/implementation programmes, with ground-breaking innovations, that enhance the municipality's ability to protect biodiversity, adapt to climate change and optimise green job creation in a sustainable manner.
- Contact: Manager – Errol Douwes Errol.Douwes@durban.gov.za



BIA Team Composition

<p>BIA – Private Developments</p>	<p>Regional Co-ordinator:</p> <p>Michelle Lotz Michelle.Lotz@durban.gov.za</p>	<p>Environmentalists and Senior Environmentalists: <i>Comment on private development EIAs and Development Applications and provide environmental guidance for all proposed private developments within the eThekweni Municipal area.</i></p> <p>Greg Mullins Greg.Mullins@durban.gov.za Peron Amein Peron.Amein@durban.gov.za Warren Botes Warren.Botes@durban.gov.za Sabelo Nkosi Sabelo.Nkosi@durban.gov.za Zinhle Dlamini Zinhle.Dlamini4@durban.gov.za</p> <p>Senior Environmental Technician:</p> <p>Batha Msomi Batha.Msomi@durban.gov.za</p> <p>Senior Admin Officer:</p> <p>Thenjiwe Msani Thenjiwe.Msani@durban.gov.za</p>
<p>BIA – Municipal Developments & Environmental Complaints</p>	<p>Regional Co-ordinator:</p> <p>Sibongile Dlamini Sibongile.Dlamini2@durban.gov.za</p>	<p>Environmentalists and Senior Environmentalists: <i>Comment on and provide environmental guidance for all municipal project EIAs and Development Applications within the eThekweni Municipal area.</i></p> <p>Nomvuzo Mbonane Nomvuzo.Mbonane@durban.gov.za Russell Stow Russell.Stow@durban.gov.za Shoni Makhwedzha Shoni.Makhwedzha@durban.gov.za</p> <p>Environmental Compliance Advisor:</p> <p>Mpume Teba Mpume.Teba@durban.gov.za</p> <p>Biodiversity Enforcement Officers:</p> <p>Trafford Petterson Trafford.Petterson@durban.gov.za Mkhanyisi Cele Mkhanyisi.Cele@durban.gov.za</p> <p>Admin Support:</p> <p>Thenjiwe Msani Thenjiwe.Msani@durban.gov.za Batha Msomi Batha.Msomi@durban.gov.za</p>