

Framework for Marine Biodiversity Advisory Services



Advisory Services:

We deliver global advisory services to address risks to coastal and marine biodiversity in a way that makes sense for people, business and the environment. Our aim is to understand and address the important issues with respect to development and provide long-term strategic and project level solutions to address these. To support our work we create new approaches that provide simple solutions to complex issues and standardise advice wherever possible. We deliver our advice using a global network of advisors connected to local experts to deliver the best advice.

Bluedot+:

We deliver nature positive actions on the ground under our Bluedot+ initiative, bringing together marine biodiversity and social experts, along with a network of local groups and implementing partners, to help restore the blue dot.

Knowledge Chain:

We deliver a strategy to provide the best available information and expertise by connecting international and local experts. We understand that the best results occur when we embrace collaboration and share information. Our organisational model seeks to bring in the best expertise rather than internalising services - operating as a bridge linking between consultancy, conservation researchers, governments and infrastructure developers. We do this to find the best outcomes for business and biodiversity.

Marine Toolbox:

We develop new approaches and tools to address key coastal and marine biodiversity threats; enhance the decision making process for infrastructure developments; and increase scientific capacity and knowledge. We seek to understand the important issues and create simple solutions to address these - openly sharing our approaches in the toolbox.

Training:

Through our global capacity building we seek to build enduring project legacies. As a core business aim we develop local skills and experience; and aim to build systems to sustain these at the local level. This reduces dependency on international experts and creates a greater sense of project ownership on the ground. Our aim is to deliver training using international and local experts and to use our local networks to sustain skills with a focus on creating a long term connection of local communities with the management of biodiversity, which creates a connection for stewardship of local values and also livelihood opportunities.

Consultancy Lighthouse:

A core aim of the Bluedot Foundation is to identify key issues for biodiversity and provide solutions to address these. We seek to build capacity and knowledge for the better protection of biodiversity resources and provide scientific advice and developing new simple scalable approaches and tools. We also link with conservation programmes that are aligned with the core aims wherever possible. We can therefore support with implementation of CSR initiatives by providing examples and links to local programmes that ensure the long term successful delivery of actions.

- AS** Advisory Services
- BP** Bluedot+
- KC** Knowledge Chain
- DT** Developer Toolbox
- T** Training
- CL** Consultancy Lighthouse



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Strategic Support

Introducing the bigger picture: Introducing 'bigger picture' thinking that takes account of long term business and biodiversity risks rather than focus on short term project goals.

Biodiversity Strategies: Shape strategies and development of internal approaches that align with national and global goals for biodiversity.

Safeguard Standards: Develop guidance to support the implementation of best practice safeguard standards.

Compliance review: Deliver project due diligence and compliance reviews

Early Implementation of the Mitigation Hierarchy: Introduce strategies that address risks business and biodiversity in project decision-making as early as possible and provide guides for common issues.

Capacity building: Technical client-side project management support and training of internal staff to manage biodiversity issues

Spatial Planning: Deliver effective coastal and marine spatial planning advice for biodiversity to promote sustainable management in an integrated way

DT

- Access to tools and approaches to allow for strategic decisions to be made

KC

- Access to an international, regional and local network of experts

BP

- Biodiversity strategy development using our Bluedot+ framework

T

- Access to expert capacity building resource

KC

- Access to an international, regional and local network of experts

BP

- Sharing access to tools that support marine spatial planning

Screening and Scoping

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Define the Assessment Area: Map project information, screen the impacts and determine the Areas of Influence.

MT

- Standardised screening assessment frameworks
- Impact assessment significance tool
- Geospatial mapping approaches

Assign the Best Experts: Engage with the appropriate local, regional and international experts to support screening assessments to forecast risks to business and biodiversity. Use of best practice elicitation techniques to provide good precautionary judgement where data are poor.

KC

- Access to an international, regional and local network

BP

- Support from Bluedot+ Advisors

Determine the Baseline: Identify the regulatory framework, biodiversity triggers, values, threatened and vulnerable habitats and species, significance of key biodiversity features, presence of protected areas etc. We will screen critical and natural/modified habitats in line with IFI safeguard standards.

KC

- Knowledge on baseline coverage and completeness
- In-house data and previous studies
- Sectoral experience
- Niche technical expertise for commonly encountered important issues

Address limitations, bias and potential for misinterpretation in existing data by providing geographic knowledge, in-house data, information from our network and/or using cost-effective early rapid site assessment approaches.

MT

- Geospatial mapping of in-house data and external data sources (e.g. IBAT, IUCN Red List)
- Rapid site assessment tools (field and remote)
- Standard screening and assessment frameworks: critical habitat assessment, natural habitat assessment and biodiversity value

KC

- Data from regional and local research networks

Prioritise and Identify Gaps: Prioritise the key biodiversity features and link the impacts to form the focus of the assessment approach.

KC

- Geographic and sectoral experience
- Technical knowledge for commonly encountered key issues
- Understanding of what issues can be managed or requires more data

Introduce the Mitigation Hierarchy and Likely Management Approaches: Apply the mitigation hierarchy as soon as possible to determine the risks and incorporate the measures and plans into the project scope. Promote avoidance wherever possible as this can often make most sense for business and biodiversity.

MT

- Standard best practice management plans: vessel collision, underwater sound, interventions, offsets, restoration, light management, species translocation etc
- Geospatial approaches to visualise mitigation approaches

KC

- Applying knowledge from our network of experts and building collaborative approaches to support subsequent implementation

Determine likely monitoring requirements at an early stage, especially to inform baseline data collection needs.

Determine the Ecosystem Services: Define the services that will affect the project and also determine the impacts that may occur; and prioritise the key issues.

KC

- Technical knowledge to establish the links and identify any gaps in understanding

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Baseline Studies

Develop the Knowledge: Complete baseline studies adopting best practice approaches, providing a focus on gaining the right level of certainty for the main issues – pragmatically aligning data collection and management needs. Low-maintenance autonomous field operations in challenging environments using standardised best practice approaches. Vast global experience of managing uncertainties.

MT

- In-house best practice field survey action plans
 - Geospatial mapping approaches to plan surveys and to show baseline
 - Project and client portals to manage data and provide access to information and tools
 - Access to baseline survey tools (field and remote)
-
- Access to in-house information in data poor areas and providing connections to local researchers across the globe who provide access to local knowledge

KC

Assessment

Standardise the Assessment Approach: Use standard best practice Assessment Frameworks to determine and quantify impacts - reducing the amount of superfluous text.

KC

- Significant international experience of successful ESIA and permit delivery
- In-house impact assessment frameworks and tools
- Geospatial mapping to visualise impacts

Further Assess Natural and Critical Habitats: Building on screening studies to complete Critical Habitat and Natural Habitat Assessments in line with IFI safeguard standards.

MT

- Detailed understanding of the standards and delivery of natural and critical habitat assessments globally

Management and Monitoring

Finalise the Mitigation, Management and Monitoring approach: Deliver the measures to apply the Mitigation Hierarchy. As appropriate, deliver 'No Net Loss' or 'Net Positive' planning; and deliver best practice monitoring approaches.

MT

- Standard best practice Biodiversity Management/Action Plans
- Delivery of best practice and meaningful monitoring approaches
- Geospatial mapping to visualise the implementation of measures

KC

- Access to our network to support the understanding of best practice measures and the delivery of mitigation and monitoring approaches

Due Diligence

Compliance Review: Undertake independent marine biodiversity reviews of compliance with IFI safeguard standards.

KC

- Experience and knowledge to act as the lead marine biodiversity independent consultant for development projects across the globe

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Implement Positive Contributions

Deliver nature positive actions: Integrate biodiversity in strategic corporate management and decision-making to improve performance and reduce business risks and costs. Help to define and deliver actions that halt and reverse biodiversity loss, boost resilience, and enhance the health and well-being of people.

BP

- Bluedot+ provides a framework to support the delivery of nature positive contributions on the ground

CL

- Access to a local network and established programmes for collaboration, support and demonstration of approaches that work
- Experience of supporting community led conservation programmes

Build local capacity: Support knowledge exchange, participation and education of local communities and stakeholders.

T

- Access to training, including vast experience of academic teaching and community engagement

BP