



## NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AND BUSINESS INDABA-WHAT DOES BIODIVERSITY MEAN FOR YOUR BUSINESS?

12<sup>th</sup> February 2015

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How can a baboon spider threaten power generation activities in Limpopo? How does a Camel-thorn tree threaten the reputation of an iron ore mine in the Northern Cape? What power do wetlands wield over property developers in Gauteng?

If the answers to these questions interest you then you should be attending the inaugural National Biodiversity and Business Indaba from 25-26 February 2015 at GIBS in Illovo, Johannesburg, South Africa where all will be revealed over two days of dynamic discussions aimed at improving the mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations into business in Africa.

Transnet's Ms. Sue Lund will be presenting the keynote speech on day one of the Indaba. Ms. Lund is General Manager: Public Policy & Sustainability at Transnet SOC Ltd, the state-owned company which owns and operates South Africa's commercial ports, freight railways and pipelines. Since joining Transnet in 2006, she has managed Transnet's public policy engagements and in 2011, was tasked with establishing the sustainability portfolio.

Other speakers at the Indaba include Ms. Joanne Yawitch (CEO of the National Business Institute), Dr. Tanya Abrahamse (CEO of the South African National Biodiversity Institute), Mr. Ismail Lagardien (National Planning Commission), Dr. Peter Lukey (DEA: Chief Policy Advisor: Strategic Environmental Intelligence Environmental), Mr. Bheki Sibiyi (CEO of the Chamber of Mines).

Business success is inextricably linked to the wellbeing and sustainable use of our natural resources, including water, wildlife, soil and flora. The growing scarcity of these natural resources impacts on value chains and complicates operations by making forecasting fairly unpredictable, particularly in sectors that are product driven (agriculture, health and retail) and those who invest in development (manufacturing, infrastructure and financial services).

"Large, medium and small businesses should attend the Indaba as a proactive step towards furthering their understanding of the risks and opportunities that biodiversity presents to their bottom line and learning about how best to respond to them so as to remain competitive in our fast-changing world." said Shelley Lizzio, Manager of the NBBN.

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The Endangered Wildlife Trust is a non-profit, public benefit organisation dedicated to conserving species and ecosystems in southern Africa to the benefit of all people.

**NPO Number:** 015-502, **PBO number:** 930 001 777, **Member of IUCN** - The International Union for Conservation of Nature  
The Endangered Wildlife Trust is US 501(c)(3) compliant under **US IRS Registration number:** EMP98-0586801.



"To remain competitive in today's changing economic, social and environmental climates the management of natural capital has to become an essential component of businesses formal risk management and governance processes. By taking a pro-active and collaborative approach, business will also be able to identify opportunities related to the management of natural resources." added Shelley.

The NBBN was established by the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), in collaboration with founding partners, including the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Nedbank Limited, Hatch Goba, De Beers, Transnet, Pam Golding Properties and Pick n Pay.

The Network engages with various business sectors and related stakeholders with the aim of facilitating the mainstreaming of biodiversity into business and the development of a national agenda. Amongst other things, the NBBN facilitates the development and provision of relevant information, tools, resources, benchmarks, pilot-studies and strategic support to businesses looking to mainstream biodiversity issues. In order to do so, the Network organises events, forums, training sessions and an annual conference.

To register for the conference and for further information please contact Shelley Lizzio on [shelleyl@ewt.org.za](mailto:shelleyl@ewt.org.za).

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