



# Key Biodiversity Questions in the Oil and Gas Lifecycle



This guidance has been prepared by the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) and the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP) through the joint Biodiversity Working Group.

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## **Disclaimer**

This tool recognises that each site or project represents a unique situation with its own set of biodiversity conservation related issues and that corporate cultures and management methods may vary widely from one company to the next.

Therefore the tool focuses on the general biodiversity issues that may be relevant to a business opportunity at any stage of its development rather than on a prescriptive or inflexible method that may be difficult to apply or interpret at many sites and projects. This gives users the flexibility to address their needs in a way that is appropriate to their specific situation. In the absence of legal requirements, the decision of whether or how to use this tool is always at the discretion of the company.

Any views or opinions in this tool do not necessarily represent those of all IPIECA and OGP member companies.

# Introduction

The tool contained in this CD-ROM sets out key biodiversity questions that should be considered by both business managers and practitioners throughout all stages of an oil and gas lifecycle project. In doing so it complements existing guidance in looking at the subject through a business process angle.

## About this tool

There are two requirements for the consistently effective management of *biodiversity* risks in oil and gas development. The first is an awareness of the scope of appropriate biodiversity *conservation* actions for industry. The second is the timely identification and assessment of biodiversity risks and opportunities related to a specific project, in order to allow full consideration of these risks and opportunities during project development and implementation planning and at decision points.

For the former, an increasing amount of valuable guidance is available that explains the scope of biodiversity issues and the consideration of biodiversity in *environmental impact assessments*, *environmental management systems* and in *biodiversity action plans*.

For the latter there is relatively little help. The OGP product eSHRIMP provides valuable information on the overall timing of environmental, social and community health considerations during planning of oil and gas activities. It stops short of providing detailed guidance on biodiversity considerations however.

This tool is designed to complement existing information, and in particular the eSHRIMP product. It provides important questions relating to the management of biodiversity issues at each stage of oil and gas projects. Its aim is to be a tool to stimulate the timely planning of biodiversity related work, and to enable key questions regarding biodiversity to be incorporated into risk management systems. The tool is also available online at: <http://www.ipieca.org/lifecycle>

The continued improvement, development and sector-wide uptake of this tool depend on the active participation of end-users. Therefore, we welcome comments and suggested revisions that will improve its usability and application within the oil and gas sector.

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# How to use the tool

The oil and gas business lifecycle is typically divided into a number of stages. The precise terminology of the stages will differ between companies but broadly they correspond to stages that can be called: business case evaluation, identify and appraise, select, define, execute, operate and retire.

Typically, at the end of a stage there will be a decision point about whether the opportunity is ready to proceed to the next stage. One of the considerations about this readiness is whether the risks associated with the project have been adequately identified and assessed. The tool provides questions to address these considerations for each stage of the oil and gas business lifecycle.

The questions in this tool should have a dual purpose:

- Assisting with planning at each stage of the business lifecycle
- Providing assurance that the biodiversity risks are adequately understood at the respective decision points

*There are two ways to view the questions: 1) access individual lists from the*

## The Opportunity Lifecycle diagram:



## List of questions for each Lifecycle stage:

**DEFINE STAGE**  
**QUESTIONS FOR PRACTITIONER**

**EHS Management Plan**

*Policy and planning*

Is the Company policy/philosophy/objective towards **biodiversity** conserva reflected in your plan for this stage?

Does the project management system incorporate consideration of bio issues?

Are biodiversity considerations reflected in enviro processes and management of cha

Has the project/operation

**GLOSSARY**

**BIODIVERSITY:** The varia among living organisms fro sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and othe aquatic ecosystems and the

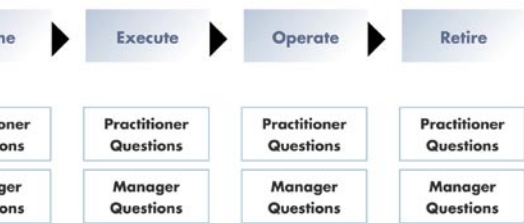
*All relevant terms in the questions link through to the glossary.*

Each question is formulated for a yes/no answer. If the answer to all questions is 'yes' or 'not relevant', it can be assumed that there is sufficient control within the project or operation management system in relation to biodiversity considerations. If the answer to one or more questions is 'no' or 'don't know', the question should be asked as to what risk that lack of information or action on biodiversity presents to the project. Effective use of the tool requires all questions pertinent to the lifecycle stage to be answered once at the beginning of the project stage as a planning aid and once at the end as a review checklist.

The questions are aimed at two levels of management:

- Business management: questions to stimulate thinking of the project's overall philosophy towards managing biodiversity issues
- Practitioners: questions that will be important in scoping the work necessary to manage biodiversity risks within particular projects or operations.

the Lifecycle, or 2) download the full matrix overview of questions:



1) Click to open the list of questions for business managers or practitioners at each lifecycle stage.

2) Download the full matrix overview of all questions for all Lifecycle stages.

Questions for Business Manager	Questions for Practitioner	Business Case Evaluation
Is the Company policy/philosophy/objective towards biodiversity conservation reflected in your plan for this stage?	Is the Company policy/philosophy/objective towards biodiversity conservation reflected in your plan for this stage?	●
	Does the project management system and environmental management system incorporate considerations of biodiversity issues?	■
	Are biodiversity considerations reflected in environmental objectives, risk management processes and management of change?	
Is there a champion assigned to ensure that management of biodiversity is integrated into project activities?	Is there a champion assigned to ensure that management of biodiversity is integrated into project activities?	
Have sufficient time and resources been allocated to manage the biodiversity issues	Have sufficient time and resources been allocated to manage the biodiversity issues effectively?	■

## Glossary (selected terms)

**BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN:** A set of future actions that will lead to the conservation or enhancement of biodiversity.

**BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY [BIODIVERSITY]:** The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.

**CONSERVATION:** The rational and prudent management of biological resources to achieve the greatest sustainable current benefit while maintaining the potential of the resources to meet the needs of future generations. Conservation includes preservation, maintenance, sustainable utilisation, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment. A mixture of utilitarian and ethical considerations often drives conservation.

**ENVIRONMENTAL (AND SOCIAL) IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ESIA):** A process for predicting and assessing the potential environmental and social impacts of a proposed project, evaluating alternatives and designing appropriate mitigation, management and monitoring measures.

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EMS):** The system of organisational capacity, plans, procedures, resources, policies and standards used by energy and other companies to manage their environmental programmes.

**LIFE CYCLE (OIL AND GAS):** The entire sequence of activity relating to an oil and gas project, from initial planning to final decommissioning and closure.

## References (included on the CD-ROM)

- "A Guide to Developing Biodiversity Action Plans for the Oil and Gas Industry" (IPIECA)
- "Biodiversity Indicators for Monitoring Impacts and Conservation Actions" (EBI)
- "Framework for Integrating Biodiversity into the Site Selection Process" (EBI)
- "Good Practice in the Prevention and Mitigation of Primary and Secondary Biodiversity Impacts" (EBI)
- "Integrating Biodiversity into Environmental Management Systems" (EBI)
- "Integrating Biodiversity into Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Processes" (EBI)
- "Negative Secondary Impacts from Oil and Gas Development" (EBI)
- "Opportunities for Benefiting Biodiversity Conservation" (EBI)

The tool contained on this CD-ROM is also available online at: <http://www.ipieca.org/lifecycle>



The International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) comprises oil and gas companies and associations from around the world. Founded in 1974 following the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), IPIECA provides one of the industry's principal channels of communication with the United Nations.

IPIECA is the single global association representing both the upstream and downstream oil and gas industry on key global social and environmental issues including oil spill preparedness and response; global climate change; health; fuel quality; biodiversity; and social responsibility.



The International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (OGP) encompasses most of the world's leading publicly traded, private and state-owned oil & gas companies, oil & gas associations and major upstream service companies. OGP members operate in more than 80 different countries and produce more than half the world's oil and about one third of its gas.

The association was formed in 1974 to develop effective communications between upstream industry and an increasingly complex network of international regulators.

OGP works with its members to achieve continuous improvement in safety, health and environmental performance, and in the engineering and operation of upstream ventures.