

IAIAsa KZN Branch

FROM DRAFT TO DECISION:

Strengthening EIA Reporting

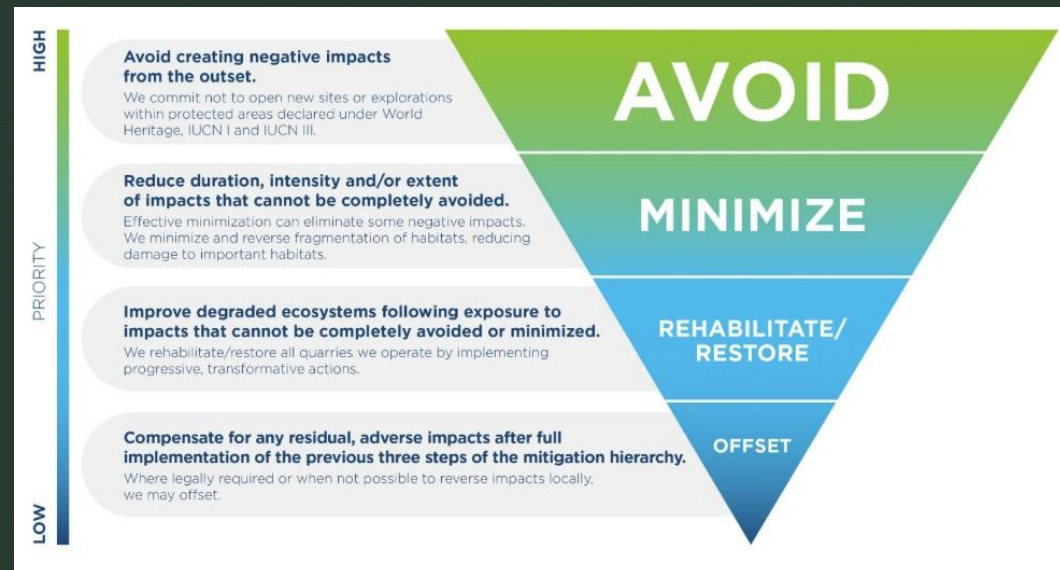


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Impact Assessment : Breaking down the process

- Specialist Studies
- Engineering / Town Planning
- Impact Assessment Report
- Environmental Management Plans



Impact Assessment : Breaking down the process

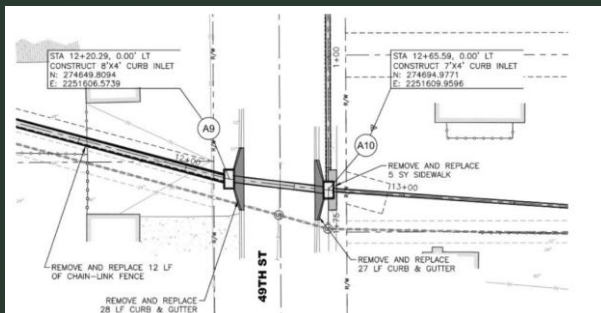
- Specialist Studies –

- Suitably qualified specialists – correct field of expertise, experience working in specific habitats
- Professionally Registered (SACNASP – PrSciNat)
- Reporting to follow the minimum requirements for specialist reporting (DFFE, EDTEA, eKZNW)
- Cannot rely on desktop data alone – must make use of 'best available science' and ground-truthing
- Independent and without pressure or prejudice



Impact Assessment : Breaking down the process

- Engineering / Town Planning
 - Geotechnical Reports
 - Topography and Earthworks
 - Sewage / water / electricity: review the layouts and the designs
 - Appropriate routing – engineers like cheap and quick!
 - Planning & Development Layouts – best fit or best return?
 - ASK QUESTIONS!!



Impact Assessment : Breaking down the process

- Impact Assessment Report
 - Review and unpack all specialist and engineering reports
 - Cross check findings and recommendations – ensure alignment / complementary and not conflicting recommendations
 - Show incorporation of the findings into the development design
 - Comprehensive impact assessment – risk of subjectivity
 - Realistic and relevant alternatives
 - Clear application of the mitigation hierarchy
 - Cumulative Impacts and Climate Change Resilience
 - Not a ‘box ticking’ process!
 - Independence and Integrity!



Impact Assessment : Breaking down the process

- Environmental Management Plans
 - Where the rubber hits the road!
 - Strong EMPr's critical in giving EA's value
 - Avoid generic recommendations and statements
 - Remove ambiguity and interpretive bias – clear and decisive requirements
 - User friendly – allow all readers to fully understand



OFFSETS – Certainly not a silver bullet!



- National Biodiversity Offset Guidelines
- eKZNW Provincial Guidelines
- Offset remains a last alternative – mitigation hierarchy must have been followed
- Any offsetting has to be included in the draft and final EIR/BA documents – no ‘post authorisation’ resolution.
- Offset is costly and time consuming to resolve – clients must be made aware of this
- Offset planning must be undertaken by suitably experienced specialists
- Not all impacts can be offset!!



eThekwini Development Assessment Process

Biodiversity Management Department:

- Enquiry and Screening Process
 - D'MOSS
 - Systematic Conservation Assessment
 - Geological & geotechnical
 - 1:100 Floodlines / Sea Level Rise risk lines
 - Conservation Servitudes
- EIA / BA Process
 - Hub and Spokes – centralised submissions
 - Consolidated comments
 - Erf-level biodiversity data
 - BMD Specific requirements – wetlands, grasslands, estuaries
- DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES
- <https://www.durban.gov.za/storage/PDF%20Documents/Development%20Assessment%20Guideline.pdf>



eThekwini Development Assessment Process

Biodiversity Management Department:

- Planning / Rezoning Applications; Building Plans
 - SPLUMA
 - Municipality mandated to consider environmental aspects as part of applications (
 - Hub&Spokes
 - Conditions drafted into planning decisions
 - Other useful tools:
 - Corporate GIS: https://gis.durban.gov.za/gis_Website/internetsite/#top.
 - CoastKZN



■ THANK YOU

