

INN-3 Biodiversity StandardsPOINTS
AVAILABLE**1****AIM OF CREDIT**

To encourage and reward developments that have sites with outdoor spaces that are managed in operation according to best practice standards for biodiversity.

CREDIT CRITERIA

The Innovation Challenge is only applicable to Green Star - Existing Building Performance projects.

One point is awarded where:

- The project has been certified by Ecocert to meet the Biodiversity Area Standard or certified to an equivalent standard for international best practice in biodiversity management. A CIR would need to be submitted to apply for approval of such equivalence.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS / EVIDENCE**Green Star – Existing Building Performance**

Submit all the evidence and ensure it readily confirms compliance.

- Copy of the Ecocert certificate specific to the site.
- Drawing or marked up aerial photograph of the site.

Copy of the Ecocert certificate specific to the building - submit a copy of the Ecocert certificate specific to the building as proof of the management of outdoor spaces related to the development (ensure that the site name or project name is consistent with the Green Star project name).

Drawing or marked up aerial photograph of the site - submit a drawing or digital photograph of the site marked up to show the site boundary (including erf number) which has been certified by Ecocert. The site boundary must be consistent with the project site area/ site boundary under EBP certification.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE / RESOURCES

Refer to the Biodiversity Area Standard website: [Biodiversity Areas Standard](#)

This certification can only be awarded after an audit that demonstrates as part of the certification process that during operation the Biodiversity Areas Standard has been met – for this reason this standard can only be met by Green Star – Existing Building Performance projects because this GBCSA rating tool is the only tool targeted at the operational phase of buildings and their sites.

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BACKGROUND

The Biodiversity Areas Standard was created to establish objective, measurable, relevant and practical sustainable environmental criteria for mainstreaming biodiversity integration of all land-use types within the anthropogenic landscape. The proven best practice benefits of the Standard include healthy environments, cost effectivity and self-sustainable ecosystem services, whilst achieving onsite primary land-use mitigation measures reducing impacts on our ecosystems. The program is also in support of global conservation objectives to address the catastrophic decline of biodiversity driven by habitat destruction caused by natural landscape transformation and carbon emissions threatening all life on earth. Hence our cities and their surrounding regions have an important role to play in protecting and regenerating ecological capital by integrating biomes the self-sustainability pillars of our Blue Green Planet into every aspect of our societies' land-use needs.

Due to South Africa being naturally exposed to weather extremities such as drought and flooding, of which the frequency and severity is now further exacerbated by climate change, the Standard offers extremely relevant and important guidelines for environmental self-sustainability and resilience across all land-use types.

As the originator, developer and owner of integrated sustainable environmental land-use systems, the Local Biodiversity Council which is a NPO oversees the application and certification process of its Biodiversity Areas Standard. This is done by appointing environmental professionals to conduct pre-audits to assist with practical application of the standards and conclude documentation before Ecocert conduct the audits verifying biodiversity status. The Council provides final 3rd party review of audits before granting certification.

Ecocert is a French professional certification organisation that has an extensive international footprint, with South African offices in Stellenbosch. They provide the audit services for the Biodiversity Areas Standard. Completed pre-audits are forwarded to Ecocert by the Local Biodiversity Council to proceed with the audits. After the Council has reviewed and approved the audit, a joint Council and Ecocert verified certification is granted to the respective sites.

REFERENCES

Refer to the Biodiversity Area Standard website: [Biodiversity Areas Standard](#)

Refer to Local Biodiversity Council: <http://www.localbiodiversity.com/>