



**CAPENATURE WORKSHOP:  
BIODIVERSITY SPATIAL PLAN AND BIODIVERSITY OFFSET GUIDELINE**

**DATE: Thursday, 15 February 2024**

**TIME: 10h00 – 12h00**

**VENUE: Fernkloof Nature Reserve, Hermanus**

CapeNature hereby wishes to invite environmental assessment practitioners and municipal officials to a workshop regarding two important biodiversity informants that need to be taken into consideration for proposed new development applications and forward planning. The event will consist of presentations followed by a discussion whereby attendees can ask questions and address any concerns. The event is being hosted by the CapeNature South Landscape and is therefore hosted within the region, however it is open to those from further afield.

Time	Topic	
10:00 – 11:00	<b>1. Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan</b>	Rhett Smart
	The first version of the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan was released in 2017 and has become well-established as the primary biodiversity informant for forward planning and development proposals. The plan has been recently updated and is under internal review. The process of the development of the plan will be presented and the updates will be highlighted. Guidance regarding the interpretation of the plan will be provided and queries regarding the implementation can be addressed.	
11:00 – 12:00	<b>2. National Biodiversity Offset Guideline</b>	Rhett Smart
	Biodiversity offsets are a tool available to address residual impacts as a result of the loss of biodiversity for priority projects. Guidelines for offsets at both a provincial and national level have previously available in draft form, however the National Biodiversity Offset Guidelines was gazetted earlier this year. The standard principles of the offset guideline will be outlined, including when they are appropriate, as well as challenges associated with implementation. There will be opportunities for queries and the potential for discussing case studies.	

Please can you RSVP for the event by 26 January 2024 to:

Rhett Smart

Phone number: 087 087 8017

email address: [rsmart@capenature.co.za](mailto:rsmart@capenature.co.za)

We look forward to your participation and valuable contributions.