

BROA | BIODIVERSITY RISK & OPPORTUNITY ASSESSMENT

ANNOUNCING THE UP AND COMING LAUNCH IN JUNE 2012 OF A **NEW FIELD BASED TOOL** FOR ORGANISATIONS WITH **AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY CHAINS** TO ASSESS THEIR RISKS, DEPENDENCIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR **BIODIVERSITY**.

The BAT Biodiversity Partnership has developed and tested the Biodiversity Risk and Opportunity Assessment (BROA). The BAT Biodiversity Partnership is comprised of Earthwatch Institute, Fauna & Flora International, Tropical Biology Association and British American Tobacco.

THE BROA TOOL PROVIDES A METHOD TO:

- Identify the impacts and dependencies of business operations on biodiversity in agricultural landscapes
- Assess and prioritise the risks and opportunities arising from those impacts and dependencies
- Produce action and monitoring plans to address the identified risks and opportunities

► **BASED ON A STANDARD APPROACH TO RISK MANAGEMENT, THE BROA TOOL OFFERS ORGANISATIONS A PRACTICAL FIELD BASED GUIDE TO ADDRESS AN ISSUE RAPIDLY GAINING IMPORTANCE - BIODIVERSITY.**



SCOPE OF THE TOOL

The BROA tool provides guidance on how to carry out the assessments, who to include in the assessment and how to manage their input transparently. The tool requires the involvement of all stakeholders relevant to the landscape in question, including managers, employees, farmers, local government and NGOs, depending on the situation.

For the purpose of this tool, the term “biodiversity” includes ecosystems and ecosystem services that are essential to agricultural landscapes. This definition includes ecosystem services that the organisation depends on and ecosystem services that may be affected by activities in these landscapes.

Whilst a holistic approach to assessing risks, opportunities, impacts and dependencies is required, the scope of the assessment is grouped into three broad areas:

- **Terrestrial biodiversity**
- **Soil biodiversity**
- **Aquatic biodiversity**

The BROA is not intended to cover and should not be used to cover atmospheric pollution, social or economic risks that should be addressed elsewhere.

WHY THE NEED TO CONDUCT A BROA?

Organisations with agricultural supply chains are dependent on the continued functioning of healthy biodiversity, yet their environmental footprint may threaten what they depend on. It therefore is good practice and makes sense for these organisations to assess how they impact and depend on biodiversity. Information gathered can then be used to produce Action and Monitoring Plans to minimise their impact on biodiversity whilst seeking opportunities for a positive contribution to biodiversity conservation, vital for sustainable development.

Completing a BROA allows an organisation to identify, prioritise and mitigate risks in a planned, straightforward and efficient manner. The tool's added value comes from its ability to identify, prioritise and exploit opportunities that might not otherwise have been recognised. With increasing regulation and the opening up of new markets regarding biodiversity and ecosystem services, early adopters of BROA may have a competitive advantage over others.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF CONDUCTING A BROA?

- Experience built within the organisation in identifying and evaluating biodiversity and ecosystem services risks and opportunities
- Establishing collaborations with other stakeholders such as networks of NGOs, academics and community groups active on the issues in your area of operations
- Insight into new opportunities around biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Improved performance on an emerging issue within the private sector and actions taken to address it
- Prioritisation of action for an international company at a global level once conducted across a sample of the supply chain

WHO IS IT FOR?

The BROA is for use by anyone responsible for managing agricultural operations and thus for the biodiversity in and around those operations. It is applicable to a broad range of crop types.

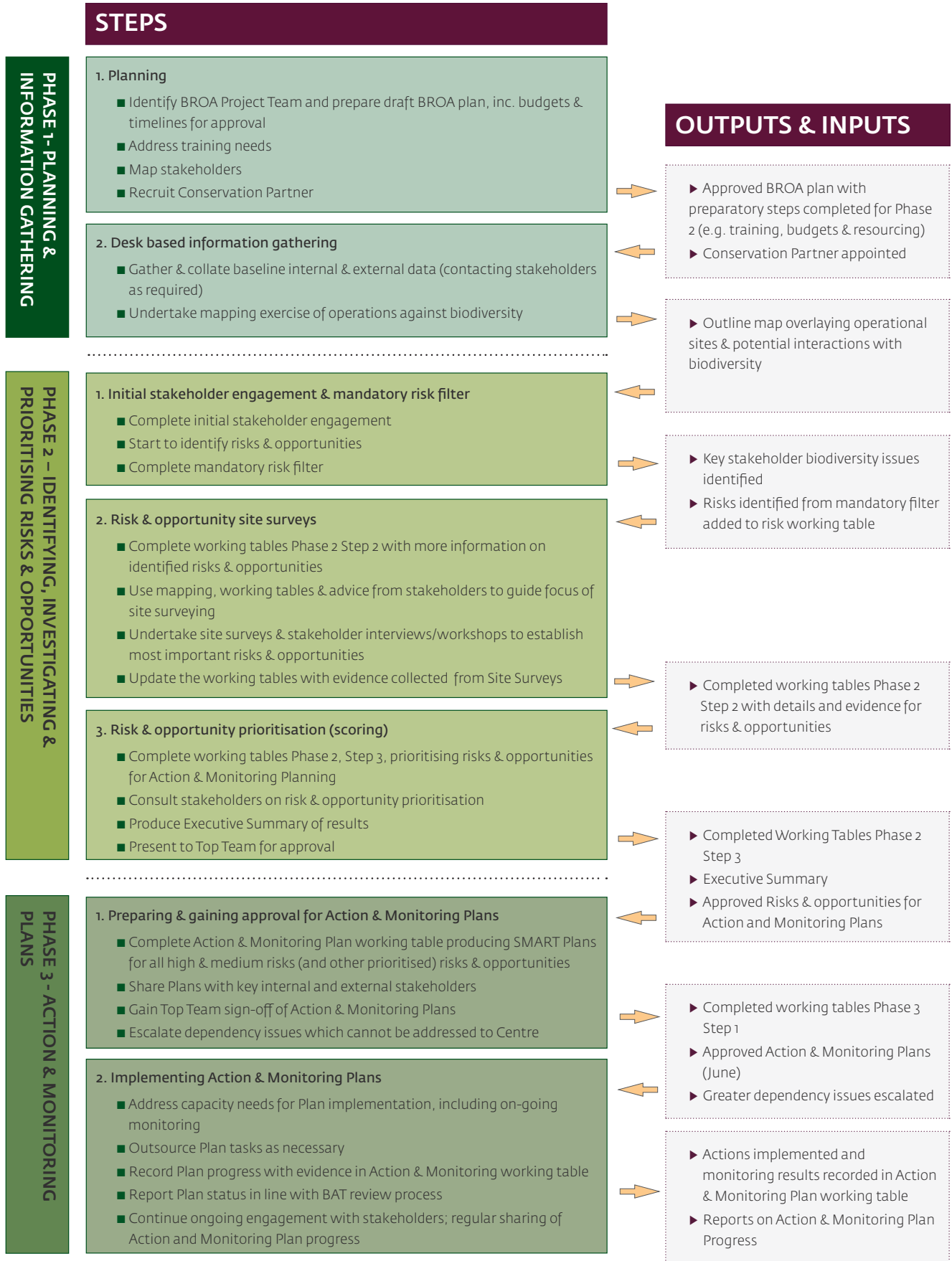
WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION DOES IT DELIVER?

The BROA can provide information on a number of different levels. For example it can facilitate:

- Identification of a high risk across a growing operation that requires immediate attention
- Identification of new opportunities in and around the growing region
- Identification of ecosystem service dependency for the growing operations that are at risk.



FLOW CHART OF THE BROA PROCESS



WHAT DOES THE BROA CONTAIN?

The BROA includes a step by step **Guide** for the three phases of the process and **Working Tables** in excel format to record and score your findings.

The **Guide** includes aims and objectives for each phase, step by step instructions for each activity and a checklist of activities at the end of each phase. It also contains a series of 'How to' documents that cover recommendations on sample size selection, how to conduct site surveys, engage stakeholders and develop a monitoring process.

The **Working Tables** include a Mandatory Risk Filter of topics that have to be ruled in or out before moving on (a vital step to be sure nothing is missed) as well as Working Tables for Risks and Opportunities, and matrices to guide the scoring process.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOOL :

The BAT Biodiversity Partnership developed and tested the tool. With the support of the BAT Biodiversity Partnership, the tool has been developed and refined from field work in 20 countries to date.

The tool has received independent external review from UNEP - WCMC, Richard Perkins at WWF-UK and one other biodiversity and agricultural specialist with extensive experience globally.



A screen shot of the Mandatory Risk Filter Working Table

BIODIVERSITY RISK AND OPPORTUNITY ASSESSMENT MANDATORY RISK FILTER PHASE 1, STEP 1						
WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL BIODIVERSITY RISKS WHICH ARE OCCURRING?						
When assessing potential risks you should consider any signs of change to habitats, species, and ecosystems happening NOW (or in the 12-24 months) reference to the assessment						
Please answer 'yes', 'no' or 'maybe' against each of the biodiversity risks for EACH main land growing region (ALL land types that are suitable for 'crops' or 'forestry' in the main growing region) (see the BROA Working Table 2 for a full list)						
PLEASE STATE THE GEOGRAPHICAL REGION		EXAMPLE: NORTH DAVAO, Country A	EXAMPLE: SOUTH DAVAO, Country A	Add the name of the region here	Add the name of the region here	Add the name of the region here
RISK TOPIC						
1. Land Use Change						
1.1. Large scale land conversion from a natural state to other uses		no	no			
1.2. Loss of agricultural systems		no	no			
1.3. Loss of native forest corridors for wildlife (e.g. tree lines, forests surrounding protected areas)		no	no			
1.4. Reduction in large scale monitoring		no	no			
2. Infrastructure						
2.1. Habitat loss, disturbance or conversion to other uses		yes	no			
2.2. Habitat fragmentation		yes	no			
2.3. Habitat degradation		yes	no			
2.4. Encroachment or proximity (fence or less) to areas of biodiversity significance or protected areas		no	no			
2.5. Loss of natural vegetation buffers around the region		yes	no			
2.6. Loss of watersource buffer (either natural forest or natural vegetation)		no	no			
2.7. Fire (e.g. wildfire, uncontrolled burning)		no	no			
3. Population Pressure						
3.1. Increase in native populations (number and/or range)		maybe	no			
3.2. Hunting / collection of native species		maybe	no			
3.3. Increase and/or spread of invasive species		no	no			
3.4. Loss of species of biodiversity significance		no	no			
3.5. Increase in exotic species introductions		yes	no			
3.6. Loss of beneficial species (e.g. pest predators or pollinators) specific used or valued by community		no	no			
3.7. Loss of migratory routes / increase in barriers to movement of species		maybe	no			
3.8. Increase in species disturbance (e.g. species behavioural change, increased conflict with humans such as from crop-raiding)		no	no			
4. Soil erosion & structure						
4.1. Soil erosion		no	no			
4.2. Soil erosion by water or wind		no	no			

WHAT IS THE OUTPUT OF THE BROA?

At the end of the assessment the organisation will have Action and Monitoring plans for each identified high and medium risk and opportunity.

CONTACT

For more information, you can contact us using the general enquiry form through the BAT BP website: <http://www.batbiodiversity.org>