

During the design of outdoor areas, project teams should lay out buildings, roads, and public spaces on site to protect and celebrate the presence of on site ecological features. These features could form a theme for site-wide landscaping strategies.

The natural systems strategy should outline any activities that may cause damage to sensitive areas during the operation and construction phases of the development. It should identify measures that have been designed into the scheme and those that will be implemented during the operation to protect these areas / species, for example, limited access to mangrove areas and boardwalks provided for pedestrians to minimise damage to mangrove roots.

The protection strategy should include measures such as:

- Design protection measures
- Ensuring that work compounds, access tracks etc are not located in or adjacent to sensitive habitats
- Establish temporary fencing around protected areas to restrict access
- Undertake any works near protected areas in a manner so as to safeguard their integrity
- Undertake works considering any critical seasons for protected species

Some of these measures could be included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan if prepared as part of IDP-3.

The Mitigation Strategy report should identify the areas to be protected and measures adopted to ensure their protection, as outlined in the Protection Strategy Report. It should identify the mitigation areas and justification for the appropriateness for mitigation including:

- Area calculations
- Identification of appropriate plant nurseries

- Continuous monitoring of success or failure of young plants
- Management techniques to encourage establishment. This should be adapted following any failures.

The Compensation Strategy report should demonstrate options considered for off site compensation and the selection criteria for the proposed compensation site. The report should include measures to ensure flora establishment as outlined in the mitigation strategy and protection measures as outlined in the protection strategy. Consideration should be given to the habitat lost on the proposed site and the potential to provide enhanced habitat of a similar type to the habitat lost. The author of this report should be a qualified ecologist who has experience in habitat establishment for those particular habitats, for example, mangrove specialist.

