**PRESS RELEASE**

Hatch Goba named as founding partner in EWT’s National Biodiversity and Business Network

***21 May, 2013:*** *Consulting engineering and project implementation firm Hatch Goba is proud to announce its involvement (as founding partner) in the National Biodiversity and Business Network – a new initiative that is being spearheaded by the Endangered Wildlife Trust.*

Hatch Goba Environmental Services Group Regional Director for Africa **Max Clark** says that the aim of the initiative is to facilitate engagement with various business sectors, industries and related stakeholders to promote and assist the integration of biodiversity considerations into business agendas and operations.

“Hatch Goba’s involvement in the National Biodiversity and Business Network initiative is well-placed in that we have long been running systems which we have developed to allow for the inclusion of biodiversity into our business processes through the way that we integrate sustainability into our clients’ projects,” explains Clark.

In collaboration with the founding partners, which include the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Pick n Pay, Nedbank, Hatch Goba and De Beers; the EWT hopes that the National Biodiversity and Business Network will provide a national platform that will facilitate strategic discussion about biodiversity, with the ultimate aim of facilitating the development of a national agenda in terms of biodiversity and business.

What’s more, Clark points out that the Network also aims to develop innovative approaches, solutions and partnerships to ensure that biodiversity, ecological infrastructure and the overall natural capital of South Africa is efficiently managed and conserved to support the national economic and social development of the country.

South Africa is entering a new era in terms of sustainable development for businesses, in which a fundamental and structural shift is being initiated with regards to the way biodiversity should be managed by the private sector.

The management of ecosystem services and biodiversity has to therefore, become an essential component of the formal risk management and the governance of companies. Sustainability, including the management of biodiversity and related ecosystem services, must be regarded as a critical value chain issue.

Hatch Goba’s Environmental Services Group has a thorough understanding of the environmental and social issues involved with projects within the mining, energy and infrastructure sectors. Clark says that ESG been responsible for driving the value and benefits of incorporating environmental and sustainable design into all areas of Hatch Goba’s work for many years.

“Hatch Goba integrates environmental and social issues into all phases of industrial development. Hatch engineers, environmental specialists and social-management professionals work directly with project teams and work to deliver optimum value to our clients by mitigating negative environmental impacts,” concludes Clark.

***Ends.***

**Notes to the Editor**  
There are numerous photographs specific to this press release. Please visit <http://media.ngage.co.za> and click on the Hatch Goba link.

**About HatchGoba**   
Hatch Goba supplies process and business consulting, information technology, engineering, and project and construction management and operational services to the mining, metallurgical, energy and infrastructure industries.

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