



IUCN
WORLD PARKS
CONGRESS
SYDNEY 2014

IUCN Biodiversity Offsets Policy Consultation

World Parks Congress
Sydney, Australia
November 17 2014



Background – Resolution 110

WCC-2012-Res-110-EN : Biodiversity offsets and related compensatory approaches

CALLS ON the Director General to:

- a) establish a working group to develop an IUCN general policy on biodiversity offsets. The working group will also consider the desirability of IUCN developing global biodiversity offset guidelines. The working group's membership and mode of operating will be based on the One Programme approach involving relevant experts, including from the Secretariat, Members and Commissions.
- b) the working group should expedite the preparation of recommendations for consideration by the IUCN Council by no later than end of 2014; and
- c) as a parallel activity, continue to contribute to the current state of knowledge about the practical implementation of biodiversity offsets by (a) undertaking project work with partners, IUCN Members and Commissions and (b) the sharing of experiences.

Background – Resolution 110

[The working group] should arrive at its recommendations following consideration of:

- i. an evidence-based analysis of existing offset schemes and standards to identify the conceptual weaknesses and strengths and the opportunities and risks associated with the practical implementation of biodiversity offsets;
- ii. scientific literature and expertise to ensure that policy is solidly grounded in robust ecological principles;
- iii. modes of implementation given different national and regional contexts cognizant that biodiversity offset schemes need to specify, among other things, (i) an appropriate conceptual framework(s), (ii) metrics and other methodologies, and (iii) governance and financing mechanisms including means of verification with respect to delivering no net loss, or preferably net positive, outcomes for biodiversity;
- iv. the theoretical and practical meaning and utility of the terms ‘no net loss’ and ‘net positive impacts’ in the context of biodiversity conservation; and
- v. the particular scientific and practical challenges of applying the full mitigation hierarchy to address the impact of activities in critical habitat;



Working Group(s) Composition:

Kerry ten Kate (Forest Trends)

John Pilgrim (The Biodiversity Consultancy)

Tom Brooks (IUCN)

Swapan Mehra (Iora Ecological Solutions)

Fabien Quétier (Biotope)

Steve Edwards (IUCN)

Rachel Asante-Owusu (IUCN)

Cyril Kormos (Wild Foundation; WCPA)

Jane Lawton (IUCN Asia Region)

Martine Maron (University of Queensland)

Gerard Bos (IUCN)

Jonathan Hughes (Scottish Wildlife Trust; IUCN Council)

Philip Gibbons (Australian National University)

Brendan Mackey (Griffith University; IUCN Council)

Jeffrey Manuel (South African National Biodiversity Institute)

James Watson (Wildlife Conservation Society; University of Queensland),

Bruce McKenney (The Nature Conservancy)

Melanie Heath / Ariel Brunner (Birdlife International)

Pippa Howard / Zoe Balmforth (Fauna and Flora International)

Connie Martinez (Global Policy Unit, IUCN)

Jaime Rovira (Ministry of Environment, Chile)

Simon Stuart (Chair IUCN SSC; IUCN Council)

Jan Schipper (Arizona State University, IUCN SSC)

Santiago Martinez (Environmental Law Center, IUCN)



Progress to date (Phase 1)

Nov. 2013 - Technical Study Group established to do preparatory analytical work and have produced a technical paper that:

- ✓ Describes the technical and policy issues concerning biodiversity offsets
- ✓ Presents and describes areas of general stakeholder convergence
- ✓ Highlights unresolved issues concerning biodiversity offsets and how they might be addressed either technically or politically

Consultation process with IUCN Commissions and also at No Net Loss and Beyond Summit in London, June 3 + 4, 2014

Technical report and two input papers released at World Parks Congress, Nov 2014



www.iucn.org/publications


**Biodiversity Offsets
Technical Study Paper**

A report by the IUCN Biodiversity Offsets Technical Study Group



International Union for Conservation of Nature


**Biodiversity Offsets:
Policy options for governments**

An input paper for the IUCN Technical Study Group on Biodiversity Offsets

Kerry ten Kate and Michael Crowe




FOREST
TRENDS


**Technical conditions for positive outcomes
from biodiversity offsets**

An input paper for the IUCN Technical Study Group on Biodiversity Offsets




THE
BIODIVERSITY
CONSULTANCY



Progress to date (Phase 2)

- Policy Working Group launched in September 2014
- October workshop of Policy Working Group:
 - Described a proposed scope of IUCN's biodiversity offsets policy
 - Defined proposed elements of the policy
 - Developed strategy for advancing the policy to the final approval, in Council as well as in the 2016 WCC

Proposed process going forward

Nov 2014:	WPC consultation event
Feb 2015:	Elements paper finalised by PWG
Feb-April 2015:	Online consultation process
End April 2015:	PWG meeting to revise document
May-Nov 2015 :	online consultation with Commissions and Regional Conservation Forums
Oct 2015:	PWG meeting to revise document
Nov – Dec 2015:	Policy draft finalized
Jan 2016:	Council motion prepared for Honolulu World Conservation Congress
Sept 2016:	Policy voted on by IUCN members in WCC



If you have detailed comments or would like to know more:

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- Rachel Asante-Owusu: Rachel.asante-Owusu@iucn.org

Some issues to discuss about offsets and protected areas:

A. “No-go” considerations

1. Can any development in a protected area be offsettable?
2. Are no-go stipulations helpful, if so, how should they be set up?
3. What are the limits?

B. **Additionality**

1. Can offsets for projects outside of protected areas deliver additionality in protected areas?
2. Can biodiversity offsets act as an alternative financing mechanism where funding for PAs is inadequate?
3. Can additionality be “temporary”?
4. How might “cost shifting” be addressed?

C. **Permanence**

1. Assuming that offsets resources can be invested in protected areas, how should levels of compensation be set for the offset investment?
2. How should offset resources directed to protected areas be managed and utilized?
3. How might “permanence” be guaranteed?