



BBOP

Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme

The Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme (BBOP) is a collaboration of some 50 companies, financial institutions, governments, and civil society organisations, who are members of its Advisory Group. Together, the members aim to test and develop best practice on biodiversity offsets and conservation banking worldwide. BBOP was established by Forest Trends which currently serves on its Secretariat with the Wildlife Conservation Society.

BBOP's work is based on real experiences of biodiversity offset design in pilot projects. Through these experiences we have developed principles and methodologies required to support best practice in voluntary biodiversity offsets. The partners test these in a series of pilot projects, while opening broader consultation with policy makers and other stakeholder groups. BBOP concluded its first four years of work in July 2009, has embarked on an ambitious second phase (July 2009 – June 2012), and is also looking ahead to a possible third phase (2012 – 2015).

BBOP envisages a future in which biodiversity offsets are applied worldwide to achieve no net loss and preferably a net gain of biodiversity relative to development

impacts. Its mission is to provide leadership in the establishment of biodiversity offsets as a widely recognised and applied tool by developing and promoting best practice, based on agreed principles.

BBOP has published a set of ten principles on biodiversity offsets (please see overleaf), supported by the 50 member organisations of the BBOP Advisory Group, accompanied by interim guidance on the design and implementation of offsets (a Biodiversity Offset Design Handbook, Cost-Benefit Handbook and Implementation Handbook), and resource papers. These include case studies from the BBOP pilots and other experiences with offsets, and information on integrating offsets with impact assessment and best practices in stakeholder participation. All the materials are available at:

www.forest-trends.org/biodiversityoffsetprogram/guidelines/

BBOP welcomes new members. Our work priorities until June 2012 are to:

- Establish a broader portfolio of biodiversity offset experiences
- Improve the guidance on biodiversity offsets
- Support policy measures at the national level
- Develop means to assure the quality of biodiversity offsets
- Undertake training and capacity building

¹ The BBOP Advisory Group currently comprises representatives from: Ambatovy Project; AngloGold Ashanti; Arup; Biodiversity Neutral Initiative; Biodiversity Works; BirdLife International; Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (FUNBIO); Centre for Research-Information-Action for Development in Africa; Conservation International; Department of Conservation, New Zealand; Department of Sustainability & Environment, Government of Victoria, Australia; deVilliers Brownlie Associates; Ecoagriculture Partners; EcoTopia Science Institute, Nagoya University; Environmental Banc & Exchange; European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; Fauna & Flora International; Forest Trends; Green Horizons; International Conservation Services; International Finance Corporation; International Institute of Environment and Development; International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN); KfW Bankengruppe; Markit Environmental Registry; Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development, and Spatial Planning, France; Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning, and the Environment, The Netherlands; Mizuho Corporate Bank; National Ecology Institute, Mexico; Newmont Mining Corporation; Nollen Group; Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; Response Ability, Inc.; Rio Tinto; Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Shell International; Solid Energy, New Zealand; South African National Biodiversity Institute; TEC Consulting; The Biodiversity Consultancy; The Nature Conservancy; Tulalip Tribes, US; United Nations Development Programme (Footprint Neutral Initiative); United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre; United States Agency for International Development; Wave Action; Wildlife Conservation Society; WWF-UK; Zoological Society of London.

Principles on Biodiversity Offsets Supported by the BBOP Advisory Group

Biodiversity offsets are measurable conservation outcomes resulting from actions designed to compensate for significant residual adverse biodiversity impacts arising from project development³ after appropriate prevention and mitigation measures have been taken. The goal of biodiversity offsets is to achieve no net loss and preferably a net gain of biodiversity on the ground with respect to species composition, habitat structure, ecosystem function and people's use and cultural values associated with biodiversity.

These principles establish a framework for designing and implementing biodiversity offsets and verifying their success. Biodiversity offsets should be designed to comply with all relevant national and international law, and planned and implemented in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its ecosystem approach, as articulated in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

1. No net loss: A biodiversity offset should be designed and implemented to achieve in situ, measurable conservation outcomes that can reasonably be expected to result in no net loss and preferably a net gain of biodiversity.
2. Additional conservation outcomes: A biodiversity offset should achieve conservation outcomes above and beyond results that would have occurred if the offset had not taken place. Offset design and implementation should avoid displacing activities harmful to biodiversity to other locations.
3. Adherence to the mitigation hierarchy: A biodiversity offset is a commitment to compensate for significant residual adverse impacts on biodiversity identified after appropriate avoidance, minimization and on-site rehabilitation measures have been taken according to the mitigation hierarchy.
4. Limits to what can be offset: There are situations where residual impacts cannot be fully compensated for by

a biodiversity offset because of the irreplaceability or vulnerability of the biodiversity affected.

5. Landscape context: A biodiversity offset should be designed and implemented in a landscape context to achieve the expected measurable conservation outcomes taking into account available information on the full range of biological, social and cultural values of biodiversity and supporting an ecosystem approach.
6. Stakeholder participation: In areas affected by the project and by the biodiversity offset, the effective participation of stakeholders should be ensured in decision-making about biodiversity offsets, including their evaluation, selection, design, implementation and monitoring.
7. Equity: A biodiversity offset should be designed and implemented in an equitable manner, which means the sharing among stakeholders of the rights and responsibilities, risks and rewards associated with a project and offset in a fair and balanced way, respecting legal and customary arrangements. Special consideration should be given to respecting both internationally and nationally recognised rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
8. Long-term outcomes: The design and implementation of a biodiversity offset should be based on an adaptive management approach, incorporating monitoring and evaluation, with the objective of securing outcomes that last at least as long as the project's impacts and preferably in perpetuity.
9. Transparency: The design and implementation of a biodiversity offset, and communication of its results to the public, should be undertaken in a transparent and timely manner.
10. Science and traditional knowledge: The design and implementation of a biodiversity offset should be a documented process informed by sound science, including an appropriate consideration of traditional knowledge.

In addition to the BBOP Advisory Group which provides financial and technical support, we thank those organisations that currently provide financial support for BBOP's work²:



Join BBOP

To speak to us about joining BBOP, please contact BBOP@forest-trends.org. To see other BBOP factsheets (such as a Value Proposition for membership, and how BBOP can help companies), see:

www.forest-trends.org/whoware/AG/Joinus/.

² Endorsement of some or all of the BBOP documents is not implied by financial support for BBOP's work.

³ While biodiversity offsets are defined here in terms of specific development projects (such as a road or a mine), they could also be used to compensate for the broader effects of programmes and plans.