

**BBOP: a collaborative history**

BBOP was set up in 2004 as an international multi-stakeholder group to support best practice in applying the mitigation hierarchy, including biodiversity offsets, and working towards 'Biodiversity Net Gain'. Since the launch of BBOP 15 years ago, governments, companies, financial institutions and ESIA practitioners have embraced the importance of applying the mitigation hierarchy and explored how best to work toward Biodiversity Net Gain, thanks in part to the effective BBOP outreach, training, publications, and commitment of members and partners.

*BBOP envisages a future in which the mitigation hierarchy is rigorously applied worldwide to a high standard by projects in as many sectors as possible, to achieve no net loss and preferably a net gain of biodiversity including, where appropriate, the use of biodiversity offsets.*

While Biodiversity Net Gain cannot be described as a 'mission accomplished', BBOP has made major strides by establishing more rigour in the application of the mitigation hierarchy, promoting planning for defined conservation outcomes such as 'No Net Loss' and 'Net Gain', and creating tools to mainstream these approaches in key economic decision-making, such as planning and licensing. Ten years ago, through the efforts of the Advisory Group, BBOP created the internationally recognized set of principles on biodiversity offsets. These principles formed the foundation of an accompanying standard and guidance, now used, cited, adapted and integrated into law, policy, industry guidance and financial loan conditions. Together, we have built a library of practical handbooks, resource documents and roadmaps for corporate and public policy practitioners; a community of practice of over 2000 members with a webinar series and newsletter; and communications and training events that have raised the profile of better mitigation and Biodiversity Net Gain through companies, industry associations, governments and the UN and EU.

As the message has spread, more governments are making policy commitments, companies and banks are adopting biodiversity targets and initiatives are springing up around the world. Notable international milestones are the IFC Performance Standard 6, the World Bank Safeguards and the IUCN policy on biodiversity offsets. The scope of the topic has evolved, with ever more emphasis on 'avoidance' as the first step in the mitigation hierarchy, and consideration not just of biodiversity, but of ecosystem services and natural capital.

**Mainstreaming the work: an idea that has taken flight**

Many members of the BBOP Advisory Group and of the wider community of practice now take part in a proliferation of new initiatives focused on effective application of the mitigation hierarchy. . Much of BBOP's original mission has been adopted by a growing group of international players involved in implementation of the principles that BBOP fostered. This mainstreaming of an idea whose time has come is a tribute to BBOP, but also means that BBOP's role is less essential to the Biodiversity Net Gain movement.

*Consequently, the BBOP Secretariat and Executive Committee have conferred and feel the time has come to bring BBOP in its current form elegantly to a close at the end of 2018. We plan to do so with a final conference in Paris in November 2018, to celebrate the arc of developments over the last 15 years and cement BBOP's legacy.*

It is important that BBOP concludes its current work to the customary high standard. We want to leave a helpful legacy website as a resource with a suite of useful products for companies, governments and civil society, for easy access and wide distribution. We will be in touch about ideas you may have on how to complete the work of BBOP successfully. With the continued support of the Advisory Group we expect to produce these final deliverables:

**The Paris conference:** A celebratory meeting of 180 participants drawn from the current Advisory Group and selected guests, will take place at the end of November. This will focus on BBOP's legacy and future opportunities for the wider Community of Practice to promote Biodiversity Net Gain. On Tuesday 27 and Thursday 29 November 2018, we will hold a conference on 'Working for Biodiversity Net Gain: taking stock and prospects for the future'. This meeting for 180 participants will be held at the premises of BBOP member Caisse des Dépôts in Paris. The conference will have an engaging agenda with a lively and varied format covering the evolution of the mitigation hierarchy since BBOP's inception, including biodiversity offsets and compensation, the sharing of experience and robust debate on the latest thinking, future directions and challenges associated with 'Biodiversity Net Gain'. Tuesday 27 November will be a stand-alone day for BBOP members and their guests to discuss BBOP legacy products and how to maximize the BBOP legacy, and Thursday 29 November will be a joint day with the EU Business and Biodiversity Platform. On Wednesday 28 November, attendees can choose between informal working sessions and discussions on special themes; a field trip; attending the Natural Capital Coalition meeting; or exploring Paris.

**Publications:** We plan to publish the following remaining BBOP tools:

- BBOP: A 2018 Overview and Lessons Learned. Wrap-up of the 15 years of work, reflecting on changes over time, trends, results, challenges, new issues, next steps for the international community etc.
- Executive summary of BBOP tools (principles, standard, handbooks, resource papers, roadmaps)
- Business Planning for Biodiversity Net Gain
- Government Roadmap for Biodiversity Net Gain
- Policy Benchmark
- Infographic on Corporate Natural Capital Accounts, with 'steps' and case study
- Case study of using the BBOP Standard from a linear infrastructure company

**Legacy Website:**

- A redesigned website guiding a variety of users to materials and information they will need
- All updated and final BBOP documents will be posted to the revised website
- Updated BBOP Library

