

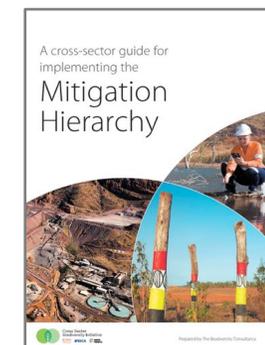
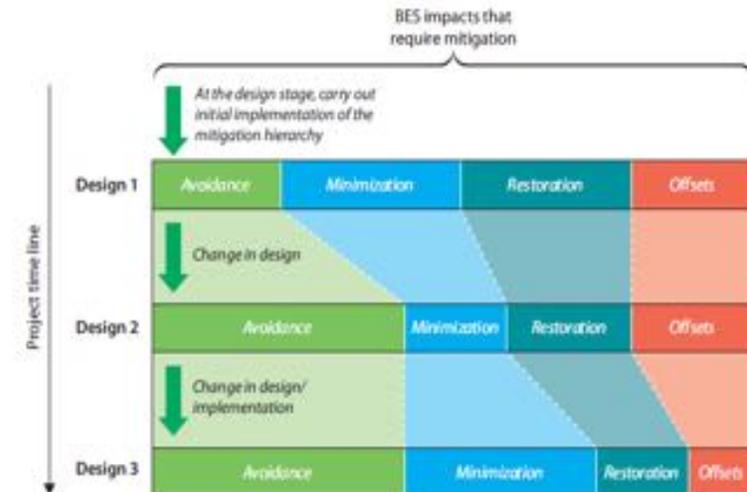
Social considerations in biodiversity offsets

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Oxford, 20th November 2018

Who are we ?

- A team of 25 committed conservationists = biologists with social expertise!
- We design and implement mitigation & offsets for impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services
 - Corporate/government policy to design & implementation at site level
- For industry, government, NGOs, banks
 - Sectors from extractives, renewables & agriculture to personal care & beauty
 - Developed and developing world



Why is a biodiversity consultancy interested in social considerations?

- Implementing biodiversity management – in the developed or developing world – is about working with people
- Offset/’net gain’ design may start with technical biodiversity considerations – but socio-political factors determine feasibility & success
- It’s what we do!



Scale of social considerations varies

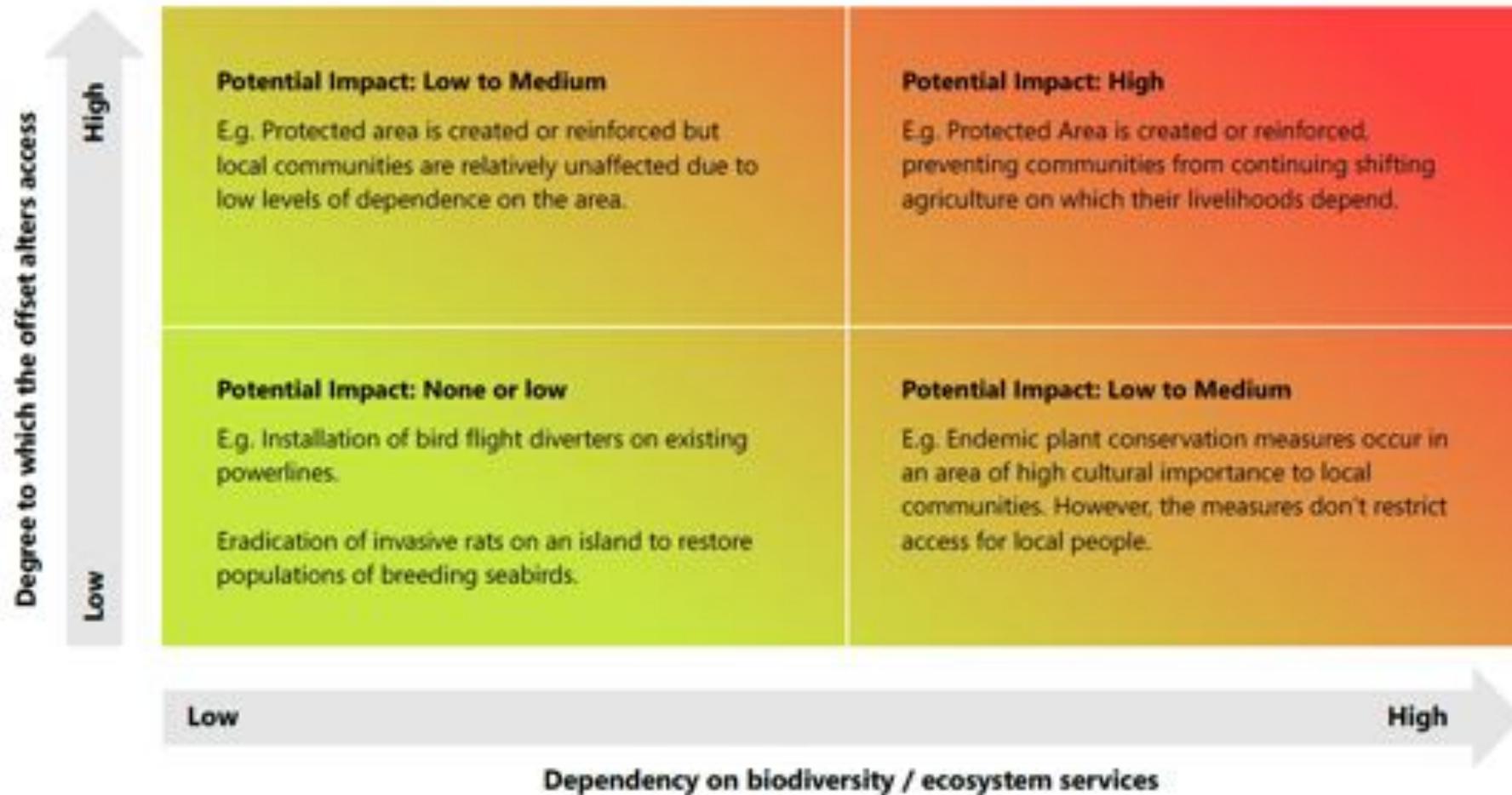


Figure. 1: The potential social impacts of offsets depends on the interaction between peoples' dependency on ecosystem services and the offset actions. These criteria can be used in early screening to assess the level of risk of different offset options and inform the feasibility and design stage.

The challenges are NOT unique to offsets

- Balancing the needs of people and nature is a challenge that the conservation community has grappled with for decades
- We – as conservation and development practitioners - have a wealth of tools and experience.
- “Win-wins” can’t always be found – but it IS possible to tackle the trade-offs in a transparent, rigorous and equitable way, and to design offsets to be positive for people and nature

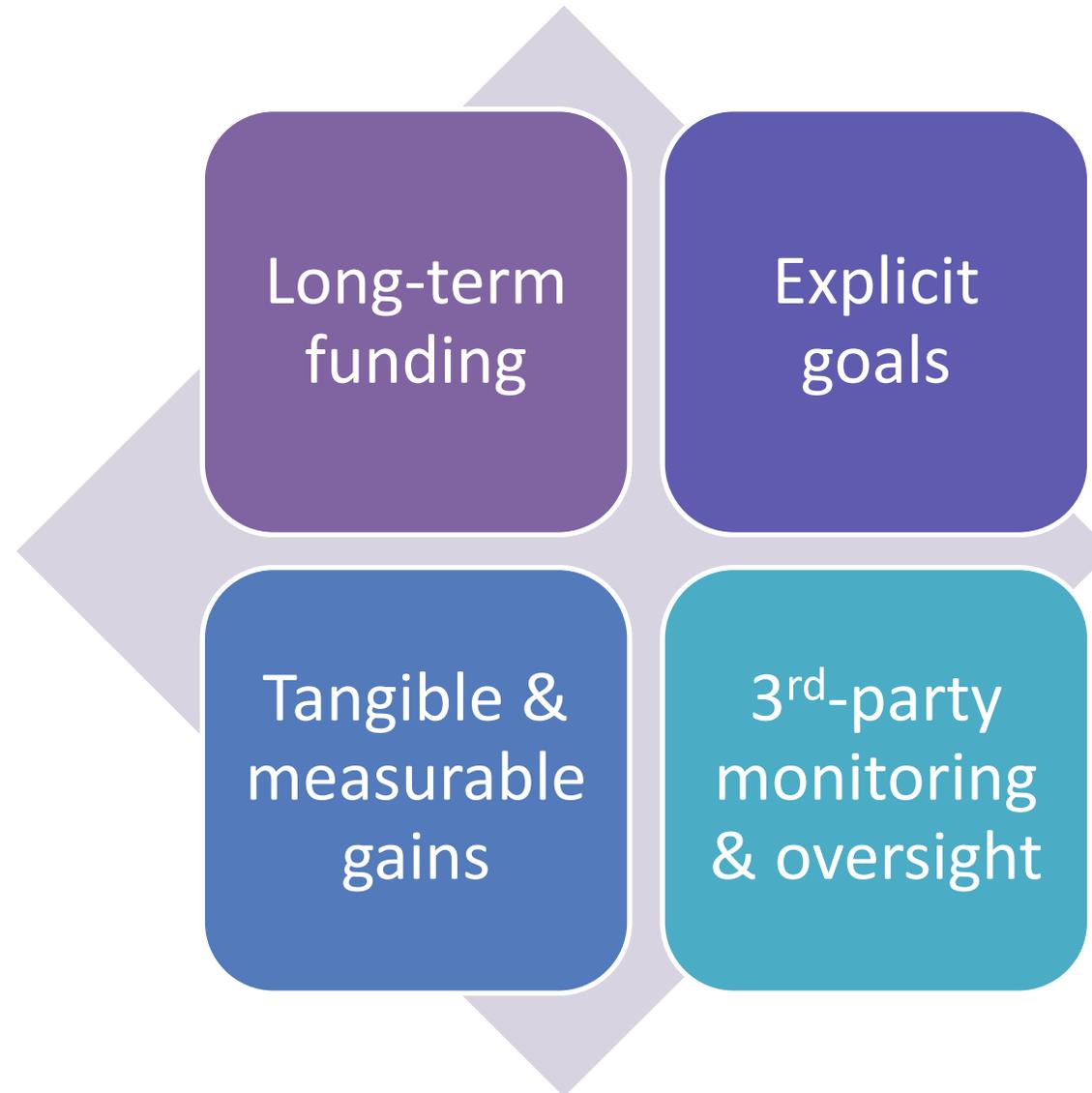


In Ambatovy, community agriculture activities abut (and sometimes encroach on) natural forest habitat.



Participatory land use mapping with communities to understand social, economic and cultural values and assess options for conservation actions and livelihood enhancement.

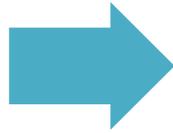
Offsets present an opportunity to do better!



Looking forward: Trajectories of offset development

“alpha testing” (pre-2010)

- Early offsets, voluntary or lender driven
- Mostly negotiated solutions
- Low level of specificity of outcomes, little quantification
- **Ad-hoc consideration of social factors**
- e.g., Kalagala, Taninthayi



Offsets 1.0 (approx. 2010 onwards)

- Codified good practice – BBOP and PS6 2012
- Boom in company-level policies for ‘net gain’
- Specific quantifiable outcomes for particular biodiversity features
- **Social considerations a means to an end, not a primary goal**
- e.g., Oyu Tolgoi, Ambatovy, etc



Offsets 2.0 (2020+)

- Target-based?
- Integration with national frameworks (explicit sharing of responsibility and costs)?
- **Positive social outcomes an explicit goal?**



Business implications and relevance

- Getting the social considerations right can mean the difference between the success and failure of a biodiversity offset.
- Business can adopt tools and good practice from the conservation and development sectors to develop partnerships with local communities.
- Well-designed offsets can present opportunities to provide sustainable positive outcomes to both people and biodiversity.

Biodiversity offsets are positive conservation initiatives designed to compensate for residual impacts on biodiversity after all feasible avoidance, minimisation and restoration measures have been undertaken. Biodiversity offsets are often planned in landscapes that are used, valued and owned by people: this means that working with people is essential.

Where offsets are aligned with people's use of biodiversity, they can have positive social impacts, e.g., in cases where an offset protects locally-valued cultural sites, wildlife or a locally important fishery. Involving local people in offset design can identify potential positive impacts, build positive relationships and help identify opportunities for more effective interventions.

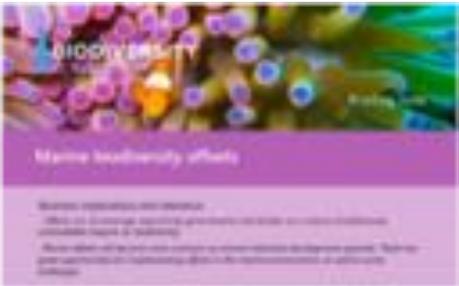
However, offsets can also have potential costs for local people, e.g., where an offset seeks to reduce deforestation by preventing land clearance in forest areas. If these costs are not understood and addressed, the offset may have direct negative social impacts. Similarly, an offset may change local decision-making or power structures which may adversely affect vulnerable social groups if specific measures are not taken to ensure their inclusion.

Delivering positive social outcomes from offsets is increasingly seen as an important objective in itself and not just a means to an end. This is aligned with good practice for offsets including the BBOP standard¹, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards and emerging guidance for social outcomes from biodiversity mitigation². Working with communities and local stakeholders is also an opportunity to form robust partnerships for achieving lasting biodiversity gains (Table 1).

¹ Business and Biodiversity Offset Programme - <http://bbop.forest-trends.org>.
² Bull, J.W., Baker, J., Griffiths, V.F., Jones, J.P.G., and Miner-Gulland, E.J., (2018). Ensuring Net Gain for people and biodiversity: good practice principles. Oxford, UK.

At a glance

- Biodiversity offsets often involve working with people who live within and/or around the offset area, and who depend on or value ecosystem services from the landscape.
- Developing offsets with people is an **opportunity** to develop **partnerships**, and deliver **positive social outcomes** as well as **lasting biodiversity gains**.
- Developing offsets without proper consideration of social issues and engagement with communities poses significant risks. **Offsets that prevent access to resources can exacerbate poverty, affect vulnerable people, and generate conflict.** This is ethically inappropriate, jeopardises the offset's sustainability, and may compromise alignment with national and international standards.
- The conservation and development sectors have a wealth of experience of successful conservation in partnership with local communities; companies can build on this to manage risks and deliver good outcomes for biodiversity and people.



Maximise biodiversity offsets

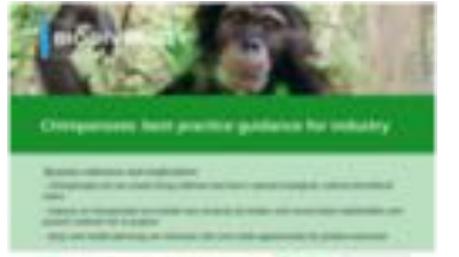
Business implications and relevance

Why are biodiversity offsets?

Business implications and relevance

At a glance

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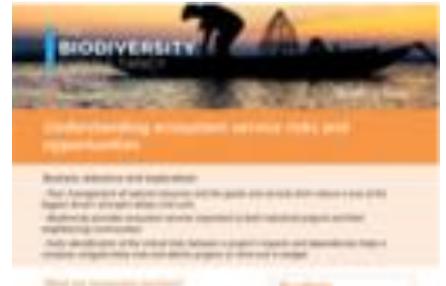
Challenges, best practice guidance for industry

Business implications and relevance

Why are challenges, best practice guidance for industry?

At a glance

- The conservation and development sectors have a wealth of experience of successful conservation in partnership with local communities; companies can build on this to manage risks and deliver good outcomes for biodiversity and people.



Understanding ecosystem services risks and opportunities

Business implications and relevance

Why are ecosystem services risks and opportunities?

At a glance

- Ecosystem services are the benefits that people derive from ecosystems.



Protected areas and IFC Performance Standard 6

Business implications and relevance

Why are protected areas and IFC Performance Standard 6?

At a glance

- Protected areas are areas of land or sea reserved by law or other effective means to conserve parts of the natural world.



Resilience and ecosystem services: the business case for managing risk and creating opportunity

Business implications and relevance

Why are resilience and ecosystem services?

At a glance

- Resilience is the ability of a system to absorb disturbance and still maintain its basic structure and functions.



HCV and PC-PSA: why do the different approaches matter to industry?

Business implications and relevance

Why are HCV and PC-PSA?

At a glance

- High Conservation Value (HCV) areas are areas of land or sea that are of exceptional value for biodiversity or other natural or cultural resources.

Our new briefing note

Acknowledgements & questions

