Ensuring No Net Loss for people as well as biodiversity: good practice principles
Joe Bull, Victoria Griffiths, EJ Milner-Gulland, Julia Baker, Julia PG Jones
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Oxford, July

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London, September
Who is this for?

This document is for those involved with development projects who are seeking to achieve ‘no net loss’ (NNL) or a ‘net gain’ (NG) of biodiversity

- Development commissioners and investors setting biodiversity NNL targets for development projects.
- Company directors and sustainability managers establishing biodiversity NNL as part of a corporate strategy.
- Consultants designing biodiversity NNL for specific development projects.
- Statutory bodies, regulators, competent authorities and auditors reviewing biodiversity NNL designs for specific development projects.
- Contractors implementing biodiversity NNL designs for specific development projects.
- Academics and members of third sector organisations involved with designing, implementing and monitoring biodiversity NNL for development projects.
- Policymakers developing or updating policies containing biodiversity NNL objectives.
- The public including those affected by biodiversity NNL projects.
Who is this for?

Ecologists involved in biodiversity NNL/NG from perspective of biodiversity metrics etc

Social specialists within teams (but perhaps not currently paying much attention to NNL/NG activities and commitments)
What are the social impacts of NNL/NG
Why should we care about the social impacts of NNL/NG?

- **Moral imperative:** reflected in best practice guidelines e.g. BBOP (2009) states efforts to achieve conservation gains should make local people “no worse off”

- **Practical imperative:** License to operate

- **Regulatory requirement:** National policies, IFC standards etc
The principles

• A set of 16 guiding principles

• Informed by:
  • Existing guidance
  • Academic literature
  • Consultation

• Objective: people are no worse off, in terms of the components of their wellbeing affected by biodiversity NNL
The principles

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No net loss for people and biodiversity

Victoria F. Griffiths, Joseph W. Bull, Julia Baker, and E.J. Milner-Gulland
The principles

Conceptually

1. Measurement = ‘wellbeing’ of affected people

2. Spatial focus = the area of interest

3. Timescale = the lifetime of the development project

4. Evaluate wellbeing against a baseline OR improving scenario

5. Gains in wellbeing that compensate for any losses should be genuine, but can be out of kind
The principles

Operationally

6. Aggregate ‘affected people’ (e.g. by household)

7. The people who benefit are those who were impacted

8. Do not achieve biodiversity objectives at the expense of people’s wellbeing, and vice-versa

9. Ensure that biodiversity outcomes are equitable

10. Ensure that biodiversity outcomes are not deemed unacceptable
The principles

Institutionally

11. Develop mitigation via inclusive stakeholder engagement

12. Ensure that ecologists and social specialists work in close partnership

13. Implemented an effective conflict-resolution mechanism

14. Monitor throughout

15. Outcomes validated by an independent party

16. Be transparent throughout
1. Avoid
2. Minimise
3. Remediate
4. Offset

[Order for consideration when designing NNL strategy]

[Iterative approach to designing NNL strategy]

Preventative measures

Compensatory measures
Avoided loss of forest
Avoided loss of forest

Minimized bushmeat extraction
Avoided loss of forest
Minimized bushmeat extraction
Construction roads replanted
Avoided loss of forest
Minimized bushmeat extraction
Construction roads replanted

Preventative measures

Compensatory measures

• Clear alien trees (buffer zone)
• Replant with native trees
• Expand protected area
1. Restricted access for recreational hunting
2. Loss of alien trees (valuable provisioning service)
Relevant principles

- Mine and offset included in scope → #2, #3
- No worse off (wellbeing) → #1
- Aggregate affected people into hunters and those collecting wood → #5
- Retain stands of alien and plant new native trees → #6
- Compensate hunters out of kind, via direct engagement → #10, #11
- Same individuals compensated → #7
- Official national offset registry → #13, #15
- Independent progress analysis → #14
Social principles for No Net Loss

Your input needed
How the voting works

• We will present a question

• Then run a poll for you to vote

• Please use chat / comments to send questions, thoughts, comments, ideas...

• Afterwards there will be a Q&A with all speakers, please hold questions until then
What you think will be your **main use** of these principles?

- As technical guidance
- To engage others e.g. stakeholders, industry, regulators, financial institutions
- To lobby for better social outcomes from biodiversity NNL/NG
- To assess or demonstrate good practice was followed
- Other: please use the chat function noting Q1
What format of the document would you most prefer?

• **SHORT**
  A brief introduction immediately followed by the principles. Technical guidance & case studies as separate downloads.

• **MID-RANGE**
  An introduction followed by a summary of the wider context e.g. types of social impacts from biodiversity NNL/NG; then the principles interspersed with short case studies. Technical guidance & full case studies as separate downloads.

• **FULL**
  The mid-range version but with more details on the wider context, & with technical notes & full case at the back of the document so everything is in one place.
3
The principles set out good practice. What is most helpful for you to implement the principles:

- Practical tools such as check lists
- Describing common pitfalls and how to overcome them
- Case studies
- Detailed technical guidance
- Links to the wider literature
What is **most important** for these social principles to align with international good practice on biodiversity NNL/NG

- Focus on independent auditing – is biodiversity NNL/NG in accordance with these social principles
- Focus on transparency
- Set conditions to meet to demonstrate implementation of each principle
- Other: please use the chat function noting Q4
The principles are based on measuring wellbeing. What would be most useful for you:

- A technical note on measuring wellbeing
- Case studies on measuring wellbeing
- References to the literature on measuring wellbeing
- Other: please use the chat function noting Q5
Who decides whether compensation is commensurable with the losses incurred?

The people affected from biodiversity NNL/NG & a competent authority

Who is this competent authority?
About the competent authority, which factor would be most useful for you:

• A broad high-level definition of a ‘competent authority’ so that readers can interpret this for their country

• A specific definition of a ‘competent authority’ to provide greater clarity

• No definition but case study examples of competent authorities from various countries
KEEP
CALM
IT'S
THE
LAST ONE
The principles seek to address trade-off issues.

They state that biodiversity NNL/NG is not traded-off against social outcomes from NNL/NG, and vice versa.

Biodiversity & social outcomes from NNL/NG should be aligned as efficiently as possible.
Which factor would be most useful for you to address trade-off issues:

• Case studies

• Technical advice on assessing NNL/NG in the context of social impacts

• Advice on accounting for & communicating the identification of trade-offs & how these were addressed
THANK YOU
Next Steps

• We will finalise the principles with all feedback

• Please join us at a Symposium in Oxford on 20\textsuperscript{th} November (just send your details through chat!)

• Please join us for a special session at BBOP in Paris, November
Question & Answer