

Biodiversity offsets in France

Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable
Development and Energy

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« To no net loss of biodiversity and beyond »

Parallel session 4



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Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement durable et de l'Énergie

www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr

The national doctrine on the mitigation hierarchy

Published in 2012

A common framework to harmonize the specific regulatory procedures implemented in France (Natura2000, protected species, forest, industrial plants...).

Participatory approach (national steering committee).

Objective : to take the environment into account as early as possible in project planning

9 pages.



DOCTRINE
relative à la séquence Éviter, réduire et compenser
les impacts sur le milieu naturel

Ce document est destiné aux maîtres d'ouvrages, à leurs prestataires et aux services de l'Etat. Il a
vocation dans l'avenir à servir de référence au regard des analyses d'ordre technique ou réglementaire.

Version modifiée après le travail par le comité de pilotage du 6 mars 2012



The national guidelines on the mitigation hierarchy

Published in 2013

Participatory approach (national steering committee).

Scope : the environment (terrestrial, marine, wetlands), including species, habitats, ecological corridors and functionalities, ecosystem services

Objective : harmonized methodologies for the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy

Public: the administration and project developers

232 pages



Sectoral guidelines on wind farms and protected species

Guide sur l'application de la réglementation relative aux espèces protégées pour les parcs éoliens terrestres

Mars 2014

Published in 2014

Objective: to reconcile the need to develop wind energy in France (target : 19 GW by 2020) and a high level of protection of species, notably birds and bats, that are likely to be affected by such infrastructures.

32 pages



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Key features of the French policy on biodiversity offsets

1 – A strong integration of the mitigation hierarchy into the regulatory framework
(environmental impact assessment procedures, project permits, obligation to demonstrate a major public interest proportionate to the negative impacts on N2000 sites and protected species)

2 – Offsets : an obligation for projects and plans that have unavoidable significant impacts on the environment

- Duration, location, description and monitoring measures of offsets are included in project permits
- Legally binding
- Strict equivalence (“like for like”)

3 – Learning from the experience : the on-going national experimentation of habitat banking

- Anticipation (units must be created before they are sold) and mutualisation (for medium to low impact projects)
- Matching with the local demand
- Units are specific to each ecological context (no single “currency”)
- Minimum duration of 30 years

Next steps

Next 8 years (2014-2021): to monitor the pilot habitat banking projects

- To assess the relevance of habitat banking in the French context
- If relevant, to identify success factors, failure risks, key features of habitat banking including the financing scheme

On-going : to keep on monitoring the implementation of the legal and regulatory framework

- Better integration of administrative procedures (ideally at the EIA stage)
- Additional guidelines on specific issues if needed

On-going: to keep on contributing to EU policies on biodiversity

- Need and options for EU action on NNL



A Black grouse and a bocage landscape in France

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