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



da Développement

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.





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



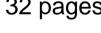
Sectoral guidelines on wind farms and protected species

Guide sur l'application de la réglementation relative aux

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







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 <u>before</u> they are sold) and mutualisation (for <u>medium to low impact</u> projects)
- Matching with the <u>local</u> demand
- Units are <u>specific</u> 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



