

To No Net Loss of Biodiversity and Beyond – June 2014

# **Challenges for Impact Assessment Practitioners - Session 12- Output from IAIA 2014, Chile**

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# SUMMARY

- Introduction
- Main points:
  - Act early and think regionally
    - Ahead of individual projects
    - For individual projects
  - Equator Principles and IFC PS6
  - Biodiversity offsetting





# INTRODUCTION

- “Wind-up” biodiversity session on last day of IAIA 2014, after many other biodiversity sessions
- Over 60 attendees, session in parallel with 8 others
- Five panelists, including chair, from Banks, NGOs, Industry and Consulting





# MAIN POINTS - ACT EARLY AND THINK REGIONALLY

- Ahead of individual projects:
  - SEA, RAMP, etc:
    - Challenge to governments, banks, other stakeholders
    - Private sector cannot take over regional government responsibilities for a single project
  - Regional planning needs to be ecologically based
  - Unsustainable land use practices (artisanal mining) may be little regulated, while individual projects are subject to detailed biodiversity guidance
  - Paradox of more technical information but also more development in protected areas





# MAIN POINTS – ACT EARLY THINK REGIONALLY cont.

- For individual projects:
  - Real analyses of alternatives, including no-project
  - Baselines need to be more dynamic
  - Need to better understand levels of biodiversity that represent good condition
  - Is there a “way around taxonomy”?
    - Time challenges in ESIA
    - ESUs, habitat hectares, others?
  - Need more effective CEA within EIAs
  - Need more realistic / robust systems for adaptive management within EIA / BAP





# MAIN POINTS – EQUATOR PRINCIPLES AND IFC PS6

- Provided good incentive for full use of mitigation hierarchy
- Seen as global best practice:
  - However, is it too rigid and not really designed as overarching biodiversity IA method?
- BBOP guidance on offsetting seen as main suite of guidance by many:
  - But other initiatives ongoing (CSBI, IUCN).
  - Need to ensure good sharing of experience between initiatives





# MAIN POINTS – BIODIVERSITY OFFSETTING

- Need more on the ground published case study evaluations
- Need more cross fertilizations between regulated and non-regulated offsetting experience
- Crucial activities often non-technical, (offset area protection and co-management), rather than fine-tuning loss-gain calculations
- Pros and cons for how far to advance offset planning during EIA phase
- Better methods needed to demonstrate positive biodiversity outcomes from action oriented offsets
- Need clear plan for offset acquisition and funding as part of EIA





■ Thank you