The BBOP Standard on Biodiversity Offsets

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The reason for the BBOP Standard

- Most biodiversity standards are not quantitative and are general.
- They don’t deal with the mitigation hierarchy or quantify residual losses and gains.
- Many impact quantification methodologies: the good, the bad and the ugly.
- Many organisations negotiated and agreed the BBOP Principles over 4 years.
- The BBOP Principles represent best practice, but are aspirational.
- Needed: an objective, independently verifiable basis for establishing whether the BBOP Principles have been followed.

Agriculture (AGR) – 12 standards
Biotrade (BIO) – 2 standards
Carbon (CAR) – 3 standards
Finance (FIN) – 5 standards
Fisheries (FIS) – 5 standards
Forestry (FOR) – 4 standards
Mining (MIN) – 2 standards
Tourism (TOU) – 3 standards

Principles for biodiversity offsets agreed by all the BBOP members

1. Adherence to the mitigation hierarchy
2. Limits to what can be offset
3. Landscape context
4. No net loss
5. Additional conservation outcomes
6. Stakeholder participation
7. Equity
8. Long-term outcomes
9. Transparency
10. Science and traditional knowledge
To help **auditors** assess conformance with the BBOP standard.

To help **companies** design & implement high quality offsets in the context of the mitigation hierarchy.

**Principles:** Fundamental statements about a desired outcome.

**Criteria:** The conditions that need to be met to comply with a Principle.

**Indicators:** Measurable states to tell whether or not a particular Criterion has been met.

**Guidance Notes:**
- Interpretation of Indicator
- Key questions
- Conformance requirements
- Possible causes of non-conformance

.... Explains terms, concepts
.... What assessor needs to answer
.... To meet the standard
.... Examples of not meeting the standard
FT/WCS: Experience using the BBOP Standard

Using the BBOP Standard & other guidance to:

• Undertake early screening and risk assessment on feasibility of No Net Loss and a Net Gain;

• Guide the design of mitigation measures, including offsets; and

• Assess or ‘audit’ projects.

For example, mines in:

  Botswana   Colombia  
  Indonesia  Madagascar  
  New Zealand  Romania  
  South Africa  Sweden  

Energy projects in: Uganda, New Zealand
Feedback, lessons learned, next steps

Based on evidence to date, the BBOP Standard on Biodiversity Offsets (Version 1!) turns out to be a helpful tool:

- for its core intended purposes (mitigation design and assessment for NNL);
- and for some ‘unexpected’ things (early risk assessment and planning).

Two updated case study publications: see for yourself!


Part of a ‘package’ of tools.

Can be rationalised, streamlined and harmonised with other tools.

Seeking users for more feedback to feed into Version 2.
Thank you

More information is available at:

http://bbop.forest-trends.org/pages/guidelines