

CAPABILITY STATEMENT

Biodiversity Offsetting and Supporting Conservation Actions

Biodiversity offsetting enables organisations to demonstrate that project implementation can result in ‘no net loss’ of biodiversity. This is a valuable tool for projects in areas with high biodiversity risk. Earth Systems is experienced in developing biodiversity offsets and supporting conservation actions that protect or enhance biodiversity and meet the needs of a project, regulators and other stakeholders.

BIODIVERSITY OFFSETTING

Biodiversity offsets are measurable conservation outcomes of actions designed to compensate for significant residual adverse biodiversity impacts. These impacts have arisen from project development after avoidance and mitigation measures have been taken into account.

Offsetting is based on quantification and calculation of biodiversity losses (i.e. residual impacts) and gains (e.g. by a Company’s actions), the key components of which are shown in the diagram opposite.

Benefits and opportunities for projects arising from commitments aimed at achieving ‘no net loss’ can include improved competitiveness, access to finance, improved relationships with regulators and other stakeholders, increased likelihood of permitting and reduced risk of project delays or unforeseen costs.

Earth Systems has experience in offsetting in many countries, including Australia, and has particular expertise in native vegetation gain scoring and the process of purchasing offsets.

We strongly recommend the early integration of biodiversity assessments into project development to minimise the requirement for offsets, and to maximise offset success. Earth Systems will lead a project through all stages of the mitigation hierarchy, including the final stage, offsetting.

There is no single approach to designing and implementing offsets, therefore we work with our clients to tailor a pragmatic and robust offset strategy, management plan and monitoring programme. These strategies and programmes can be integrated into a Biodiversity Action Plan. Earth Systems also provides technical support to implement offsets.

SUPPORTING CONSERVATION ACTIONS

For projects that either do not require offsets or need to achieve ‘no net loss’, but aim to maintain good practice, Earth Systems can develop a range of supporting biodiversity conservation actions. It is often difficult to quantitatively measure the success of such activities, particularly within a project lifespan. Whilst these actions do not meet key international criteria for offsetting, they are expected to



benefit biodiversity values (e.g. education programmes, applied conservation initiatives and research).

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES PROVIDED

Earth Systems will tailor products and services to a project’s needs, including:

- Biodiversity offset strategy and management plan tailored to the project and regulatory requirements, including IFC Performance Standard 6 (when required).
- Supporting conservation actions.
- Monitoring programmes to assess efficacy of offsets.
- Stakeholder consultation and partnership building that are vital for the success of strategies.
- Biodiversity Action Plans.

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Earth Systems has developed and implemented Biodiversity Action Plans, offset strategies, supporting conservation actions and outline monitoring programmes for numerous projects including:

- Gold mining projects in Africa.
- Electricity transmission projects in Southeast Asia.
- Mining projects in Australia.



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