

INTERNATIONAL SIDE EVENT AT CBD COP 12
organized by Mission Economie de la Biodiversité

**MEETING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES: THE STRATEGIC
SIGNIFICANCE OF SAFEGUARDS TO BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS**

Scope of the side event

The conservation of global biodiversity alongside economic development is a key challenge for the 21st century. Biodiversity offset is conceived within the frame of the mitigation hierarchy, and from this perspective, may contribute to reducing the loss of biodiversity and to meeting sustainable development objectives. Some biodiversity offset schemes have been inconsistent in meeting conservation objectives and the approach itself requires continuous improvements – for instance, on metrics (chosen to measure biodiversity), on the equivalence between gains and losses (to address conservation value), on the management of uncertainty, on the duration of offset schemes... To allow biodiversity offset schemes to effectively contribute to reducing biodiversity loss, a combination of sound and solid safeguards have to exist *ex ante*. The place and space for ecological compensation indeed is defined by those safeguards. Globally, the existing safeguards necessitate further improvements and others are still under development. Thus, international exchanges upon how to clarify what compensation is and how it should be implemented, is useful and may help to identify emerging research needs.

This is why the CDC - Mission Economie de la Biodiversité wishes to initiate an international dialogue on **Biodiversity offset safeguards** and will organize a side event on this set of issues at the next COP 12 in Korea, in October 2014.

Objectives of the side event

Drawing from a range of international experiences (success and failure), the aim of this side-event is to engage in a discussion on the conditions in which biodiversity offsets can work to support sustainable development. This side-event will provide an overview of the existing safeguards, their limits and margins for improvements, and will shed light upon research needs and tools to be developed: this topic still require a great deal of improvements to effectively address the radicality of the biodiversity losses around the globe and an overriding conceptual framework to ensure proper rigor in the implementation process is yet to be established. This side-event is an opportunity to exchange on the mechanisms that are used in various national contexts to implement biodiversity offset schemes in the most efficient way to contribute to sustainable development. There is indeed much to learn from each other on how to provide guidance, how to ensure that the scheme gives priority to avoidance and reduction measures, on how to ensure that the environmental authorities have the appropriate oversight capabilities and that the responsibilities for managing and monitoring credit sites are clear and on how to ensure permanence. Bringing together various international experiences on safeguards will offers a rich pool of information to work with and will create a solid basis for constructive and interactive discussions during the side event.

Key questions

- In order to contribute to meeting sustainable development objectives, what are the necessary safeguards to ensure, over time, proper rigor in the implementation of compensatory measures?
- What are the existing tools and who is in charge?

Participating parties (1hrs 30min)

Moderators
Sebastian Winkler, Sr Policy Adviser, BBOP
Keynote speech (tbc)
Laurent Piermont, President, CDC Biodiversité – Mission Economie de la Biodiversité, France
Minister of Environment (tbc)
Expert Reflections / presentations
« Cossure Case study» Vincent Hulin , Mission Economie de la Biodiversité, France
« Country-specific Habitat banking process » Martin Szaramowicz , Flächenagentur Brandenburg GmbH, Germany
« Lessons from REDD+ safeguards » Rosa Lemos de Sa , Funbio, Brazil
Roundtable discussion
David Alvarez , Bancos de Habitat Ecoacsa, Spain + Francois Wakenhut , EU No net loss, DG

Dates: The 14th of October, at 18:15.

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