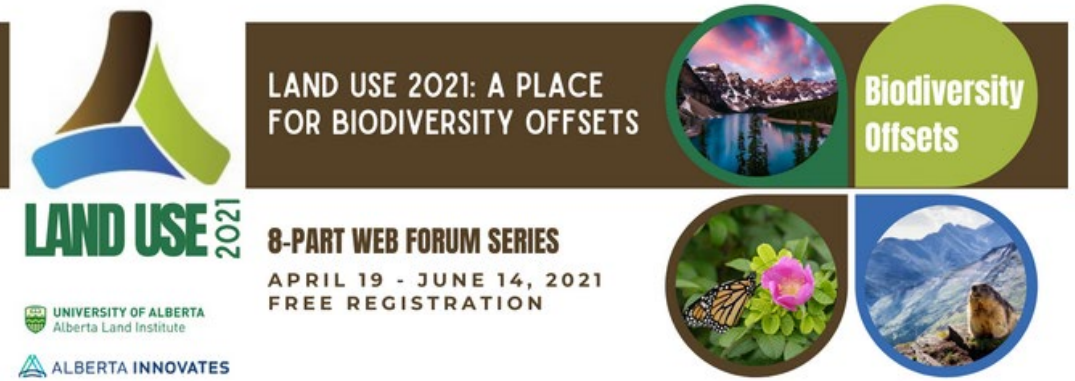


Land Use: 2021 - No Net Loss in a Changing Landscape - Session #2

Presentation - Florence Damiens - RMIT University

Damiens, F. L. P., Backstrom, A. and Gordon, A. (2021) 'Governing for "no net loss" of biodiversity over the long term: challenges and pathways forward', *One Earth*, 4(1), pp. 60–74. doi: 10.1016/j.oneear.2020.12.012.

s3581936@student.rmit.edu.au

‘No net loss’ objective: what are we assuming?

1) We are able to produce biodiversity gains
   - Establishment
   - Restoration
   - Avoided loss

2) We can maintain these gains as long as the impacts remain

3) We can maintain these gains over the long-term/in perpetuity for long-term/irreversible impacts (which is the case for many developments generating offsets under conservation legislation)

Which ecological time frames are we talking about?

For a few examples of restoration & recovery time frames,see figure 1, Damiens et al. 2021.

What does this imply?

See figure 2, Damiens et al. 2021.

What tools have been promoted to recruit & retain offset gains over the ’long-term’?

Current offset policies : follow policy cycles, not ecological time frames

- Active management phase ~ 10-30 years
- Retainment phase ~ 50 years max. in practice (if any)
- Little to no planning beyond 30-50 years

Best practice guidelines:

- Securing the land ownership legally
- Securing the management (adaptive management plan, monitoring...)
- Securing payments for services (secure capital, secure safeguards for risks of financial or ecological failure, include monitoring of budgets, safeguards and guarantees)

Source: Damiens et al. 2021, Tables 1 & 2

Limits of current propositions

- Governance:
  - Additionality issue and intra-generational justice: Control, research and stewardship costs for conservation authorities and the civil society are not included
  - Additionality and inter-generational justice: Long-term costs not included
  - Extreme dependence on the current politico-economic system, while this system will transform itself or disappear over time (history + shocks of the Anthropocene)

- Ecology:
  - Management time frames not adapted to the ecological needs of different biodiversity surrogates
  - Do not consider specification, novel ecosystems and shocks of the Anthropocene
  - Existing pressures on natural resources will increase (is already affecting PAs)

Source: Damiens et al. 2021

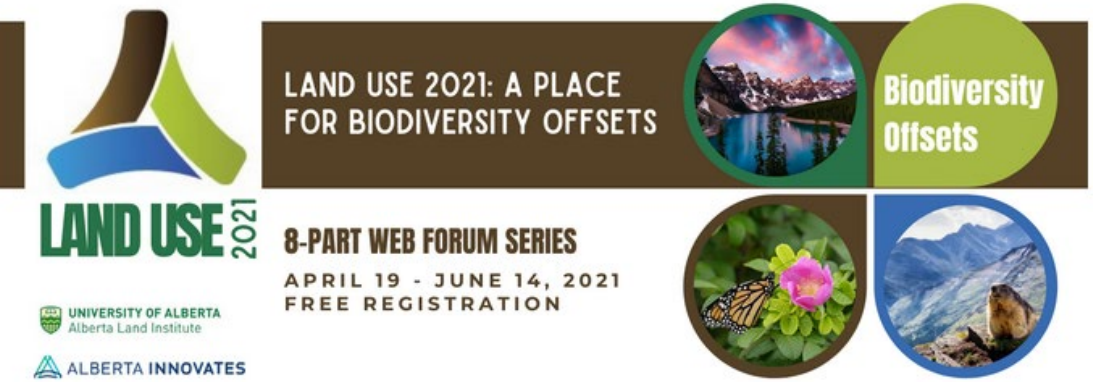
Pathways forward

- Additionality & justice:
  - Internalize the control, research, and stewardship when estimating offset costs
  - Internalize also the long-term/permanent recruitment & retainment costs for long-term/permanent offset gains
  - Build the institutions that prioritize renouncement, avoidance and that make the public/private 'polluters' pay for the intra and intergenerational costs of their authorised damage

- Work on offset policies to:
  - Incorporate multidecadal and century-plus time frames
  - Plan for building the long-term social-ecological resilience and stewardship of offset sites:
    - Engage with the dynamic nature of future gains in the Anthropocene
    - Work with local stakeholders and their formal and informal systems of governance to ensure long-term stewardship (careful with additionality).

- Not easy? Normal. Modern Western systems of governance are not built to deal with the long-term consequences of present impacts.

Source: Damiens et al. 2021



Thank you!

Next: Eric Higgs

Presentation - Florence Damiens - RMIT University

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