Biodiversity Conservation in Large Industry

Dr Helen Byron
International Biodiversity Policy Unit, RSPB
Together for birds and people

Overview

• RSPB and BirdLife International
• The safeguard ‘landscape’
• Safeguards on the ground: a case study
• Better implementation
• IBAT
• Conclusions
Together for birds and people

RSPB and the BirdLife network
The BirdLife International Partnership

People oriented, democratically governed, independent conservation NGOs
Over 10,000 IBAs identified
BirdLife and Safeguards

- We input to safeguard policy development eg World Bank, IFC, EBRD, EIB, IADB
- We work to influence plans and projects to make sure these respect biodiversity and reflect relevant safeguards (biodiversity and impact assessment)
- We provide bird/IBA data
The current safeguard landscape

• Key biodiversity safeguard policies are generally ok
• There are some gaps:
  – African Development Bank
  – Climate Financing Safeguards
  – The EU Renewable Energy Directive and biofuels
• But standards are only the start…
Safeguards on the ground: Kaliakra, Bulgaria
Kaliakra, Bulgarian Black Sea Coast
Together for birds and people
More effective safeguards

• It's not enough to have a decent policy
• Biodiversity crisis – rescue package needed
• Need national ‘buy-in’ – politicians and key ministries
• Need increased capacity
• Need increased openness and transparency
Biodiversity is in crisis

• Recognition that there are biodiversity ‘No go areas’
• ‘No net loss of biodiversity’
  – Strong application of the mitigation hierarchy
  – Role for biodiversity offsets
• Ecosystem services
Lake Natron, Tanzania
Together for birds and people
Planning

• Stronger strategic planning and SEA
  – Integrating biodiversity considerations early to avoid conflicts at project stage

• Project planning
  – Biodiversity friendly solutions > sustainable projects
Strategic planning: Via Baltica

“VIA BALTICA” EXPRESSROAD
- routes according to the initial results of the Strategic Environmental Assessment,
- road sections infringing EU nature directives.
Safeguarding Important Areas of Natural Habitat in Mongolia alongside Economic Development
Strategic planning: River Tana Delta, Kenya
Together for birds and people

Project planning
Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) – an emerging decision support standard for business, government and conservation
Mobilising IUCN’s knowledge to inform decisions – Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool

Decisions affecting critical natural habitats are informed by the best scientific information and in turn decision makers support the generation and maintenance of that scientific information.
Key information and processes

- IUCN Red List Assessments

- Fine scale mapping of critical sites for conservation: Key Biodiversity Areas and Protected Areas

- Delivery of this information through user-driven decision support systems
Together for birds and people

Decision Support Tools

Key Biodiversity Areas & Protected Areas

Species assessments – IUCN Red List
Who we work with – private sector

- Private sector leaders first to recognize value
  - IBAT partners
  - Proteus Partners

- Registered users (> 1,000)
- Corporate Consultative Group
Active projects with:
- Inter-American Development Bank
- International Finance Corporation

Preliminary discussions with:
- Asian Development Bank
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- The World Bank
Welcome

IBAT for business is an innovative tool designed to facilitate access to accurate and up-to-date biodiversity information to support critical business decisions. The tool is the result of a ground-breaking conservation partnership among BirdLife International, Conservation International and United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

To access this site, please use the link to the right to request a user name and password.

If you are attending the IUCN World Conservation Congress, then please join our launch event on 6 Oct 2008 (1430 CET).
Together for birds and people