

# Biodiversity Commitments

How to achieve long-term accountability?



**Andrew Cauldwell**

*Biodiversity Consultant (STC), World Bank*

*Canada*

[acauldwell@worldbank.org](mailto:acauldwell@worldbank.org)

[www.linkedin.com/in/andrew-cauldwell-6320342a](https://www.linkedin.com/in/andrew-cauldwell-6320342a)

[www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)





## Moyen Bafing National Park as an Offset for Chimpanzees Ecological and Financial Considerations

A review by the ARRC Task Force of the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group

The offset was established to protect Chimpanzees as a compensation for mining impacts.

The IUCN report is quite alarming, as it states this initiative is in jeopardy.

- Plans to develop a hydropower facility, and
- Mineral prospecting licenses are still valid.

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) have issued Environment & Social standards.

Some examples:

- **World Bank** Environment and Social Framework (ESF)
- **IFC** Performance Standards
- **EBRD** Environment and Social Policy



MDB standards set a high bar for Biodiversity protection.

- e.g. No Net Loss, Net Gain, Offsetting residual impacts.

These biodiversity commitments (obligations) can be:

- Expensive,
- Technically challenging,
- Require **long timeframes** and extended monitoring.



Using a scenario similar to the 1<sup>st</sup> example:

- Net Gain for a species
  - Improved population viability
    - may be based on the opinion of a panel of experts.
- Management of the protected area
  - Management plan, track record of implementation and adaptation (management of change),
  - Financial viability,
  - Development of management capacity.

# MDBs have Declining Leverage with Clients

Lenders have:

- Strong leverage when the project is active.
- Minimal leverage when the project is closed.

MDBs cannot monitor long-term commitments required for many biodiversity outcomes.

Commitments need to be substantiated and accepted

- through benefitting the community
- supported by robust ESIA and long-term monitoring

Some key ESIA requirements are:

- Align closely to the standards
- Based on primary data
- Defensible critical habitat assessment
- Practical mitigation and Net Gain strategies

## World Bank:

- Loans primarily to Government clients (Borrowers).
- Establish a strong relationship with an in-country presence and agreed Country Partnership Framework, with emphasis on:
  - Developing legislation, institutions, capacity building.
  - Engaging and strengthening stakeholders to hold proponents accountable.
- Continuity is an incentive to adhere to commitments.
- Inspection Panel can investigate alignment to ESF.



## World Bank, at the project level:

- A loan agreement is based on a legally-binding **ESCP** (Environment & Social Commitment Plan).
  - *compiled as a component of the ESIA*
- ESCP can require the Borrower to:
  - Accommodate key commitments within their national framework.
  - Operate transparently to hold themselves internally accountable and to civil society.
  - Engage stakeholders and their capacity building to hold proponents accountable.

## IFC and EBRD:

- Loan primarily to private sector clients.
- Encourage clients to adopt their own sustainability policies that underpin their commitments.
- Policies and commitments need to be publicly available.
- Encourage partnership and monitoring by Communities and NGOs.

# What can You & I do ?



- We can support NGOs and watchdog organizations.
- We can be familiar with relevant MDB standards.
- We can be aware of developments.
- We can engage Borrowers and clients and follow-up matters of importance.

*As in the case of IUCN report on offset in Guinea..*

# Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments in the IAIA23 app.



**Andrew Cauldwell**

*Biodiversity Consultant (STC), World Bank  
Canada*

[acauldwell@worldbank.org](mailto:acauldwell@worldbank.org)

[www.linkedin.com/in/andrew-cauldwell-6320342a](http://www.linkedin.com/in/andrew-cauldwell-6320342a)

[www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)