Sustainable Development at a Landscape Scale: Mitigation Principles and Policies

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Global Future Development Threat: 20 Percent of Natural Lands at Risk

Increasing Conflict Around the World: Example of Mining Sector

*Figure 1: Incidents of company-community conflict (2002-2013)*

Source: ICMM 2015
The ABCs: Landscape-scale planning benefits

**Advance planning:**
Planning at a landscape scale before initial project investments supports pro-active and comprehensive risk assessment for projects.

**Bigger scale:**
Planning for development at a larger scale moves beyond a project-by-project approach, making clear the potential cumulative impacts for a region.

**Comprehensive:**
Developing landscape-scale strategies supports avoiding impacts to high-value areas and incentivizing development in low-conflict areas.
10 Principles for Applying the Mitigation Hierarchy

1. Landscape context
2. Goals
3. Mitigation hierarchy steps
4. Limits to offsets
5. Sustainable outcomes
6. Stakeholder engagement practices
7. Additionality
8. Equivalence
9. Location
10. Temporal considerations
### US policy: “The next generation of mitigation”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>White House</th>
<th>DOI</th>
<th>FWS</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Executive Order 13604 (March 2012)</td>
<td>• Secretarial Order on Mitigation (Oct 2013)</td>
<td>• Update to 1981 Mitigation Policy</td>
<td>• Regional Mitigation Policy (draft 2013, final late-2015)</td>
<td>• USFS Chief Letter: National Landscape Scale Mitigation Framework</td>
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<td>• Departmental Manual: Implementing Mitigation at a Landscape Scale (Nov 2015)</td>
<td>• Policy on Mitigation for Candidate Species</td>
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US Policies in 2015

Requires agencies to:
• Follow full mitigation hierarchy
• Avoid impacts to irreplaceable resources
• Set a “net benefit goal”
• Ensure mitigation is additional and durable
• Set measurable performance standards

DOI:
• Use a landscape-scale approach to consider impacts and prioritize mitigation objectives
• Promote mitigation actions that help address climate change effects; improve resilience
56 countries have or are developing policies for offsets

Rise of Offset Policies

* Does not include 17 offset policies under development

Call to Action

• Ensure key mitigation principles in development and mitigation policies
• Collective leadership to promote development and mitigation planning:
  – At a landscape scale;
  – In advance of major project decisions;
  – For a more comprehensive set of values, functions, and goals.

Blueprints for a Greener Footprint: Sustainable Development at a Landscape Scale (December 2015)