

IAIA07 Training Course 1a/b

Mitigation of Impacts on Biodiversity: Best Practices in Key Sectors

SECTION 1. *Basic information about the proposed course*

- a. **Title of the course:** *Mitigation of impacts on biodiversity: best practices in key sectors*
- b. **Level:** This two day course is designed to cater for different levels of experience as follows:
Day 1 provides an overview and background material suitable for less experienced and 'early career' professionals, while Day 2 is a specialist course suitable for people who have either attended day 1, or have a more advanced level of professional experience.
- c. **Course or a workshop:** Course cum workshop
- d. **Language of offering:** English
- e. **Number of days:** 2 days.
- f. **Minimum and maximum number of participants:** 15 to 25
- g. **Instructors:**
 - i) Dr Asha Rajvanshi Senior Reader and Faculty Incharge,
Environmental Impact Assessment Cell
Wildlife Institute of India,
Chandrabani,
Dehradun - 248 001,
(Uttaranchal), India.
Tel: +91-135-2640990 Ext. 225
ar@wii.gov.in
Fax: +91-135-2640117
 - ii) Dr. V.B. Mathur Professor and Dean,
Faculty of Wildlife Sciences,
Chandrabani,
Dehradun - 248 001
(Uttaranchal), India.
Tel: +91-135-2640304
vbm@wii.gov.in
Fax: +91-135-2640117
 - (iii) Dr. Jo Treweek Technical Programme Manager
IAIA-CBBIA Programme,
Chancery Cottage, Kentisbeare,
Cullompton, Devon UK
Tel +44 (0)1884 266525
jo@treweek.fsnet.co.uk
 - (IV) Dr. Kerry ten Kate Director, Business and Biodiversity Offset Programme
Forest Trends
Flat 2, 5 Nevern Road
Earl's Court
London SW59PG
ktenkate@forest-trends.org

- h. **Target group:** EIA practitioners, corporate environmental managers and business managers, government planners, representatives from conservation organizations, and other professionals committed to more responsible project planning through better integration of biodiversity in their business or planning decisions.

SECTION 2. *Description of the course*

a. **Summary of the purpose(s), content, and anticipated learning outcomes of the course**

The state of the world's ecosystems has recently been assessed in detail by an international team of experts under the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment – MEA (2005), which concluded that *“Human actions are fundamentally, and to a significant extent irreversibly changing the diversity of life on Earth, and most of these changes represent a loss of biodiversity. The MEA (2005) notes that such biodiversity targets and the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can only be achieved if the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity becomes an integral component of sectoral economic development.*

Impact assessment is widely recognized as a ‘mainstreaming tool’ with potential to improve the integration of biodiversity considerations with development and planning in all sectors of society. It is used to identify possible adverse effects on biodiversity and then to recommend ways to avoid, reduce or compensate for these effects. The extent of global decline in biodiversity means that risks of irreversible damage and loss are increasing. Effective mitigation is an essential minimum requirement.

Knowledge of different mitigation strategies and approaches can help ensure that development is based on ‘positive planning for biodiversity’ which will help to maintain it in order to help developers manage their risks and liabilities, as well as to ensure high standards of environmental management and contribute to as the basis for meeting the MDGs. Many innovative approaches to biodiversity mitigation have been developed by businesses operating in sensitive environments, particularly in the minerals and mining sector. These include biodiversity offsets and related market-based instruments to achieve ‘no net loss’ or ‘net positive gain’ of biodiversity.

Evidence is mounting that best practice in biodiversity management can be a significant financial benefit to companies and their investors. The business case for best practice management of biodiversity is likely to become even stronger over time, and standards more stringent. There is a growing need to share experiences of how biodiversity can be incorporated with business policies and decisions. There is also a need to demonstrate the economic benefits of adopting ‘conservation financing’ for overcoming the risks associated with impacts on biodiversity. Mainstreaming of biodiversity into development practice through offsets is an emerging voluntary management tool for ensuring significant conservation outcomes.

This course is intended for professionals involved in biodiversity conservation, EIA, business and development planning and project finance. The purpose of the course is to provide a general introduction to biodiversity mitigation within impact assessment and then a review of recent developments and good practice in biodiversity offsets and market-based solutions.

The course will cover the following main elements:

- i. Review of the benefits of good mitigation planning for harmonizing conservation and development and establish the rationale behind the mitigation hierarchy.
- ii. Review of 'no net loss' and 'net positive gain' strategies.
- iii. Review of traditional approaches to biodiversity impact mitigation.
- iv. Introduction to the concept of biodiversity offsets and a review of the prospects and challenges of its applications for benefiting biodiversity and business plans.
- v. Review of recent developments in biodiversity offsets and related market-based mechanisms on biodiversity. Introduction to emerging best practice methodologies for designing biodiversity offsets and incorporating biodiversity into business plans and decisions.

The course will provide an opportunity to learn from practical experiences as well as providing a clear theoretical rationale. It is intended to raise awareness of emerging approaches to biodiversity mitigation in different sectors with a view to building capacity and improving outcomes for biodiversity through business and development planning.

b. Detailed description of the course structure and content including an outline of participatory and/or case-study based exercises.

Day 1 (AR,VBM,JT)	Introduction and background to biodiversity mitigation in impact assessment
	General introduction and overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the results of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment biodiversity in impact assessment.
	Introduction to range of (regulatory, voluntary and market based) instruments for protecting and mitigating impacts on biodiversity.
	Mitigation options and ground rules for following the hierarchy of mitigation approaches
	Guidance on mitigation options for mitigating impacts of sector specific projects through a range of case studies taken from key sectors including viz. hydropower, roads, pipelines and mining projects and from different countries and regions.
Day 2 (KK, AR,VBM,JT)	Introduction to biodiversity offsets and market-based mechanisms
	Discuss the role of biodiversity offsets in conservation and share the experience from around the world.
	Discuss emerging regulatory and market-based mechanisms worldwide on integrating biodiversity into project planning, including integration of biodiversity into environmental, social and health impact assessments conservation banking and biodiversity offsets.
	Guidance on designing and implementing biodiversity offsets, using international best practices.
	Learning by doing: Practical exercise on designing a biodiversity offset, using tools and materials provided by BBOP.
	Presentations of case studies demonstrating application of biodiversity offsets and other market based instruments

The training course will consist of a series of presentations by experienced instructors with practical experience in this area. The training sessions will include some formal presentations,

group working, role playing and presentation of case studies. The course is intended to be relatively practical and 'hands on', to prepare participants to develop effective biodiversity mitigation strategies in their own work.

c. *List and description of all training or other materials to be received by participants during the course.*

The participants would be provided with the following training materials:

1. A CD containing power point presentations from all course instructors and other relevant training material.
2. IAIA's best practice principles for integrating biodiversity and impact assessment.
3. A compilation of global best practices and guidance for mitigation of impacts of development projects on protected areas and other biodiversity rich areas.
4. The BBOP partner companies, government agencies and conservation organizations are developing "how to" guidelines and methodologies on different technical aspects of designing and implementing biodiversity offsets. Some of the available documents will be shared with the course members and also used in practical exercises on biodiversity offset design.

d. *Follow-up support to participants*

Follow up support to all participants will be provided through email exchange and through postings on CBBIA project's website, biodiversity list server and discussion forum of IAIA and the websites of the organizations that represent the affiliation of the trainers. Participants will be invited to join the Learning Network of the Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme (BBOP), to continue to be involved in the dialogue and development of best practice on biodiversity offsets.

Depending on the level of sustained interest of the participants to remain networked for serving as a regional or country level resource pool for future initiatives of capacity building and other collaborative efforts, an electronic notice board can be maintained where all participants can post and receive messages on current and future events, availability of recent training resources and lessons learnt from new initiatives of EIA practices.

SECTION 3. Trainers

Dr. Asha Rajvanshi

Dr. Asha has a doctorate in Environmental Science and is a member of the faculty of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) since last 20 years. She heads the EIA Cell of the WII and has vast experience of conducting and coordinating EIA studies. She has coordinated several training courses on EIA as part of the Postgraduate Diploma Course in Wildlife Management conducted by WII. She has also organized customized EIA training programs at the national level and has been invited to provide inputs in international training programs. Dr. Asha has served as a member of various advisory committees of Government of India dealing with environmental appraisal of developmental projects. She has also been actively involved in several EIA related global initiatives. Dr. Asha is an IAIA member and actively associated with the CBBIA project of IAIA. As an initiative of CBBIA project, Dr. Asha presented IAIA's pre-conference training courses in Boston, USA and Stavanger, Norway.

Dr. V.B. Mathur

Dr. Mathur holds a Masters' degree in Forestry and a doctorate in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Oxford. As a faculty member of the Wildlife Institute of India, he has been actively involved in conducting training and research in the field of natural resource conservation for the last 20 years. He has worked as a FAO International Training and Protected Area Planning Consultant in Sri Lanka. He has been responsible for the planning, organization and conduct of training programs for various target groups. Dr. Mathur also has vast experience of conducting environmental assessments and developing mitigation plans for safeguarding critical biodiversity resources. Dr. Mathur is an IAIA member and actively involved in the CBBIA project of IAIA. As an initiative of CBBIA project of IAIA, Dr. Mathur presented the IAIA's pre conference training courses jointly with Dr. Asha Rajvanshi in Boston, USA and Stavanger, Norway.

Dr. Jo Treweek

Dr. Treweek is an ecologist with special interest in ecological impact assessment, ecological risk assessment and habitat restoration. She is an active IAIA member and also has been a Director on the IAIA Board. She has authored several publications and books on ecology, biodiversity and impact assessment. She is currently the Technical Programme Manager of IAIA's Capacity Building in Biodiversity and Impact Assessment (CBBIA) Project and has been providing significant professional support in the training initiatives of the CBBIA Project. She has practical experience of implementing biodiversity offset projects and has also worked with businesses to develop corporate biodiversity strategies and action plans.

Kerry ten Kate

Formerly a barrister with an MA from Oxford University, Kerry joined the Secretariat of the United Nations "Rio Earth Summit" in 1990. Since then, she has conducted research and offered policy advice to governments, industry, investors and the UN on issues ranging from conservation and sustainable development strategies to trade and environment policies. At the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, she led the team that established Kew as a center of expertise on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). For the last four years she has been Director of Investor Responsibility at fund manager Insight Investment, encouraging the multinational companies in which Insight's GBP 89 bn is invested to adopt best practice on environmental, social and ethical issues and working with fund managers and analysts to integrate consideration of these issues into investment decisions. She is now leaving Insight to work for Forest Trends, directing the Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme (BBOP).