



## **NPI Acronyms and Glossary of terms**

### **Acronyms**

**BBOP** – Business and Biodiversity Offsets Program

**BOEM** – Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

**BWEC** – Bats and Wind Energy Cooperative

**CBD** – Convention on Biological Diversity

**COP** – Construction and Operation Plan

**CRMC** – Coastal Resources Management Council (RI)

**CSBI** – Cross-Sector Biodiversity Initiative

**CSRD** – The European Union Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive

**CVOW** – Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind

**CZMA** – Coastal Zone Management Act

**Defra** – Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (United Kingdom)

**DEIS** – Draft Environmental Impact Statement

**DOE** – U.S. Department of Energy

**DSAY** – Discounted Service Acres Years

**EDNA** – Environmental DNA

**EA** – Environmental Assessment

**EIA** – Environmental Impact Assessment

**EIS** – Environmental Impact Statement

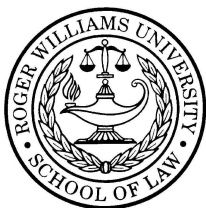
**EPA** – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**ESA** – Endangered Species Act

**EU** – The European Union

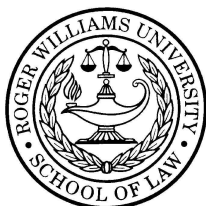
**GARFO** – Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

**HEA** – Habitat Equivalency Analysis





**IRENA** – International Renewable Energy Agency  
**IUCN** – International Union for the Conservation of Nature  
**JNCC** – Joint Nature Conservation Committee  
**MBTA** – Migratory Bird Treaty Act  
**MMPA** – Marine Mammal Protection Act  
**NCOS** – National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science at NOAA  
**NEPA** – National Environmental Policy Act  
**NMFS** – U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service  
**NNL** – No Net Loss  
**NOAA** – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
**NPI** – Net Positive Impact  
**NRDC** – National Resources Defense Council  
**NROC** – Northeast Regional Ocean Council  
**NRDA** – Natural Resource Damage Assessment  
**NYSERDA** – New York State Energy Research and Development  
**NWF** – National Wildlife Foundation  
**OCSLA** – Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act  
**OECM** – Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures  
**OREC** – Offshore Renewable Energy Certificate  
**OSC** – Ocean Stewardship Coalition  
**PUC or PSC** – Public Utilities Commission or Public Service Commission  
**PPA** – Power Purchase Agreement  
**REA** – Resource Equivalency Analysis  
**RFP** – Request for Proposals





**RVO**- Netherlands Enterprise Agency

**RWSC** – Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind

**SLA** – Submerged Lands Act

**TBC** – The Biodiversity Consultancy

**TNC** – The Nature Conservancy

**USFWS** –U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**USACE** – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**WEA** – Wind Energy Area

**WHOI** – Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

**WOZEP**- Dutch Governmental Offshore Wind Ecological Programme

**WWF** – World Wildlife Fund for Nature

### **Glossary of Terms**

**Additionality** – The concept that if any offset is to be real, it must be additional. In other words, biodiversity offsets must deliver conservation gains beyond those that would be achieved by ongoing or planned activities that are not part of the offset.<sup>1</sup>

**Biodiversity** – The integrity, connectivity and resilience of marine ecosystems that have maintained genetic diversity, and where natural ecosystems and the species that depend on them have been restored and enhanced.

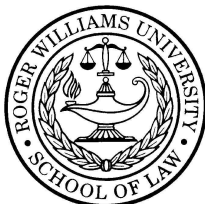
**Biodiversity Offsets** – Measurable conservation outcomes designed to achieve no net loss of biodiversity with respect to species composition, habitat structure and ecosystem function and use and cultural values associated with biodiversity.<sup>2</sup>

**Compensatory Mitigation** – Means a mitigation project for the purpose of replacing, at an equivalent or greater level, unavoidable impacts that remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization measures have been implemented. Compensatory

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<sup>1</sup> Biodiversity Offsets: A User Guide (2016).

<sup>2</sup> Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme [BBOP], *Glossary* (2018), 9, [https://www.forest-trends.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/BBOP\\_Updated\\_Glossary-01-11-18.pdf](https://www.forest-trends.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/BBOP_Updated_Glossary-01-11-18.pdf).





mitigation includes, but is not limited to, compensation, creation, restoration, enhancement, and preservation.<sup>3</sup>

**Conservation / Habitat Banking** – A market-based system for conserving species and their habitat. Usually consists of a partnership between government agencies and a community of developers who implement or fund projects that adversely affect endangered or threatened species, candidate species, other species of concern.<sup>4</sup>

**Constraints / Sensitivity Mapping** - An exercise to map the recorded or predicted presence of biodiversity features (e.g., species, sites and/or ecosystems) considered sensitive because of their importance and/or their susceptibility to impacts.<sup>5</sup>

**Environmental Assessment (EA)** – An EA pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act is a document that evaluates the potential environmental impact of a proposed federal action and determines whether a more detailed environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact is needed.<sup>6</sup>

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** – The detailed written statement that is required by section 102(2)(C) of National Environmental Policy Act for a proposed major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.<sup>7</sup>

**Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)** – The main instrument used by most governments as well as international financing institutions for assessing biodiversity impacts is the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), a.k.a. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or other names (depending on the country and institution).<sup>8</sup>

**Environmental Social Generator** – Incorporates environmental, social, and governance issues into the investment process.

**The EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)** – Proposed by the European Commission in April 2021, it aims to increase transparency of corporate performance in terms of sustainability by specifying that European investments disclose commitments to net zero according to established criteria.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>3</sup> [Compensatory mitigation Definition: 225 Samples | Law Insider](#)

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

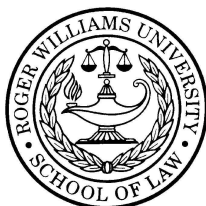
<sup>5</sup> IUCN Guidelines for Project Developers

<sup>6</sup> [NEPA Documents | Department of Energy](#)

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> BBOP, *supra* note 2, at 17.

<sup>9</sup> EUROPEAN COMMISSION, CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING, [https://finance.ec.europa.eu/capital-markets-union-and-financial-markets/company-reporting-and-auditing/company-reporting/corporate-sustainability-reporting\\_en#:~:text=On%205%20January%202023%20the%20Corporate%20Sustainability%20Reporting%20Directive%20\(CSRD\)EN&text=entered%20into%20force.,that%20companies%20have%20to%20report.](https://finance.ec.europa.eu/capital-markets-union-and-financial-markets/company-reporting-and-auditing/company-reporting/corporate-sustainability-reporting_en#:~:text=On%205%20January%202023%20the%20Corporate%20Sustainability%20Reporting%20Directive%20(CSRD)EN&text=entered%20into%20force.,that%20companies%20have%20to%20report.)





**Framework** – The structure that governs the function and processes of a system or concept.<sup>10</sup>

**Habitat Equivalency (HEA) and Resource Equivalency Analyses (REA)** – Widely used methods for scaling compensatory restoration requirements. Both methods are widely used in service quantification and restoration scaling at large, complex Natural Resource Damages Assessment sites. HEA uses habitat as the metric and REA uses the number of organisms lost/gained instead of area of habitat.<sup>11</sup>

**In-Lieu Fee** – Under an in-lieu-fee agreement, the mitigation sponsor collects funds from permittees in lieu of providing permittee-responsible compensatory mitigation. The sponsor uses the funds pooled from multiple permittees to create one or more sites under the authority of the agreement to compensate for resource functions lost as a result of the permits issued.<sup>12</sup>

**Key Biodiversity Area** – Sites recognized globally as contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity.<sup>13</sup>

**Metrics** – A set of measurements that quantifies results.<sup>14</sup>

**Mitigation Hierarchy** – The mitigation hierarchy is defined as:

- a. **Avoidance:** Measures taken to avoid creating impacts at the outset (including direct, indirect and cumulative impacts), such as careful spatial or temporal placement of infrastructure in order to completely avoid impacts to habitat and species.
- b. **Minimization:** Measures taken to reduce the duration, intensity and / or extent of impacts (including direct, indirect and cumulative impacts, as appropriate) that cannot be completely avoided.
- c. **Rehabilitation / restoration:** Measures taken to rehabilitate degraded ecosystems or restore cleared ecosystems following exposure to impacts that cannot be completely avoided and / or minimized.
- d. **Offset:** Measures taken to address any residual significant, adverse impacts that cannot be avoided, minimized and / or rehabilitated or restored, in order to achieve no net loss or a net gain of biodiversity. Offsets can take the form of positive management interventions

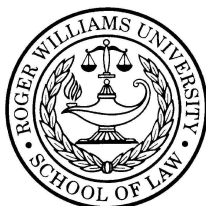
<sup>10</sup> *Framework*, MIRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/framework>.

<sup>11</sup> William H. Desvousges et al., *Habitat and Resource Equivalency Analysis: A Critical Assessment*, 143 *Ecological Econ.* 74-89 (2018). [Habitat and Resource Equivalency Analysis: A Critical Assessment - ScienceDirect](#)

<sup>12</sup> U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS [USACE], IN-LIEU FEE PROGRAMS, <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Mitigation/In-Lieu-Fee-Programs/#:~:text=An%20in%2Dlieu%2Dfee%20program,agency%20or%20non%2Dprofit%20organization>.

<sup>13</sup> IUCN Guidelines for Project Developers.

<sup>14</sup> BBOP, *supra* note 2, at 29.





such as restoration of degraded habitat, arrested degradation or averted risk, protecting areas where there is imminent or projected loss of biodiversity.

- e. **Compensation:** Measures make good or pay damages for loss of biodiversity caused by a project that fall short of achieving no net loss. For instance: conservation actions may not have been planned to achieve no net loss; losses and gains of biodiversity may not have been quantified; no mechanism may be in place for long term implementation; it may be impossible to offset the impacts; or compensation payments may be used for training, capacity building, research or other outcomes that will not result in measurable conservation outcomes on the ground.”<sup>15</sup>

**Multi-factor auction format** – BOEM will consider a combination of a monetary bid and non-cash bidding credits in determining the outcome of the auction. The non-cash bidding credits are designed to enhance, through training, the offshore wind workforce; stand-up the domestic supply chain for offshore wind manufacturing, assembly, or services; or mitigate potential impacts stemming from Lease Area development.”<sup>16</sup>

**Natural Resource Damage Assessment** – A process to determine the appropriate type and amount of restoration needed to offset impacts to fisheries, wildlife, habitats, and human uses impacted by oil spills, hazardous waste sites, and vessel groundings.

**Net gain** – Not part of the regulatory mitigation hierarchy. A voluntary action. It is defined relative to a measurable loss and can only be achieved after no net loss has been achieved. It is a systems and transformation-based concept. It seeks to restore different ecological functions within the seascape by removing pressures and allowing space and time for the dynamic system to recover. Species richness is not the measure. Net gain contributes to nature positive outcomes.<sup>17</sup>

**Nature Positive** – An emerging term and a global umbrella goal for the recently approved Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). This goal relates to a “combined societal outcome that halts and reverses nature loss by 2030 measured against a static baseline of 2020, with full recovery of functioning ecosystems to safeguard the stability and resilience of life on Earth by 2050.” Net gain and net positive actions contribute to nature positive.<sup>18</sup>

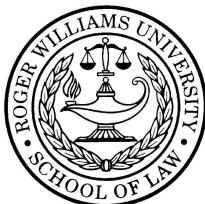
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<sup>15</sup> *Id.* at 30.

<sup>16</sup> [Microsoft Word - CA BFF Addendum.docx \(boem.gov\)](https://www.boem.gov/CA-BFF-Addendum.docx)

<sup>17</sup> Neal Cousins, *Understanding Nature Positive and the Role of Organisations in Supporting the Goal* (2021), <https://bluedotassociates.com/bluedot-positive/the-context-for-nature-positive/understanding-nature-positive-and-the-role-of-organisations-in-supporting-the-goal>.

<sup>18</sup> Neil Cousins, *Understanding Nature Positive and the Role of Organisations in Supporting the Goal* (2021), <https://bluedotassociates.com/bluedot-positive/the-context-for-nature-positive/understanding-nature-positive-and-the-role-of-organisations-in-supporting-the-goal>.







**Net Positive Impact on Biodiversity** – Sometimes this term is used interchangeably with “net gain” and “nature positive.” NPI on Biodiversity usually refers to a target for project outcomes in which the impacts on biodiversity (i.e., the variety of ecosystems and living things) caused by the project are outweighed by the actions taken to avoid and reduce such impacts, rehabilitate affected species/landscapes and offset any residual impacts. Almost always focused on threatened and endangered species and almost always at the project scale.

**No Net Loss** – A goal for a development project, policy, plan or activity in which the impacts on biodiversity it causes are balanced or outweighed by measures taken to avoid and minimize the impacts, to restore affected areas and finally to offset the residual impacts, so that no loss remains.<sup>19</sup>

**Non-price criteria** – Differentiates projects or services based on attributes other than rates and prices. Typically, non-price criteria include: community benefit packages, environmental or fisheries mitigation, economic benefit to the state, workforce development or investments in supply chain needs or research and monitoring.

**Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECM)** – “A geographically defined area other than a protected area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and, where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values.”<sup>20</sup>

**Price criteria** – Differentiates projects and services based on rates and costs.

**Solicitation** – The call, from the responsible agency, for interested parties to submit comments, proposals, or bids.

**Taxa** – A unit of any rank (i.e., kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species) designating an organism or a group of organisms.<sup>21</sup>

**Tender** – A tender (*aanbesteding*) is a way of purchasing used by Dutch government organizations for goods or services that it wants a contract to be carried out by a company.

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<sup>19</sup> Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme [BBOP], *Glossary* (2018), 31, [https://www.forest-trends.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/BBOP\\_Updated\\_Glossary-01-11-18.pdf](https://www.forest-trends.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/BBOP_Updated_Glossary-01-11-18.pdf).

<sup>20</sup> IUCN Guidelines for Project Developers

<sup>21</sup> BBOP, *supra* note 2, at 46.

