

How can we deliver ‘Environmental Net Gain’ in practice – in both the terrestrial and marine sectors?

Exploring knowledge gaps, social preference trade-offs and delivery mechanisms

SWEEP team:

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- Dr. Diana Tingley – Impact Fellow & SWEEP Impact Evaluation Manager, University of Exeter
- Dr. Tara Hooper – Research and Impact Fellow, University of Plymouth/JNCC
- Prof. Ian Bateman – Professor of Environmental Economics, University of Exeter; Member of Natural Capital Committee



Project partners include: Devon Wildlife Trust, South West Water, Westward Housing, The Environment Bank, North Devon Biosphere, North Devon Council

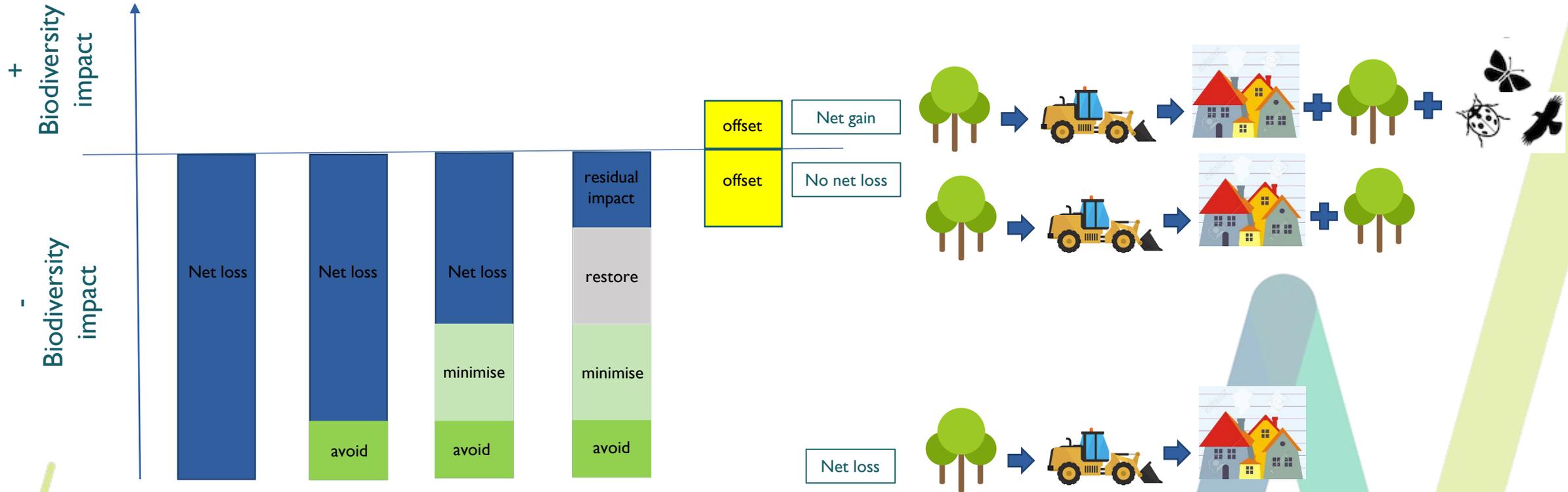
Session aims:

- Set the baseline and present key concepts:
Biodiversity Net Gain vs. Environmental Net Gain
- Workshop to discuss different opinions and gather perspectives:
– ALL views will be important, so please share!
- Guide next steps in designing SWEEP's newest project;
which aims to inform the design and implementation
of socially desirable ENG schemes
to offset for development-driven environmental losses



Biodiversity Net Gain

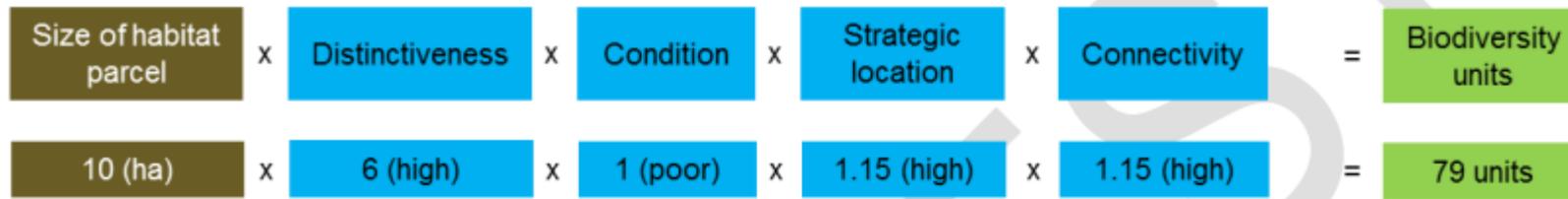
Environment Bill and National Planning Policy Framework mandate Biodiversity Net Gain (+10%) for development in England (large-scale, housing, transport/infrastructure).



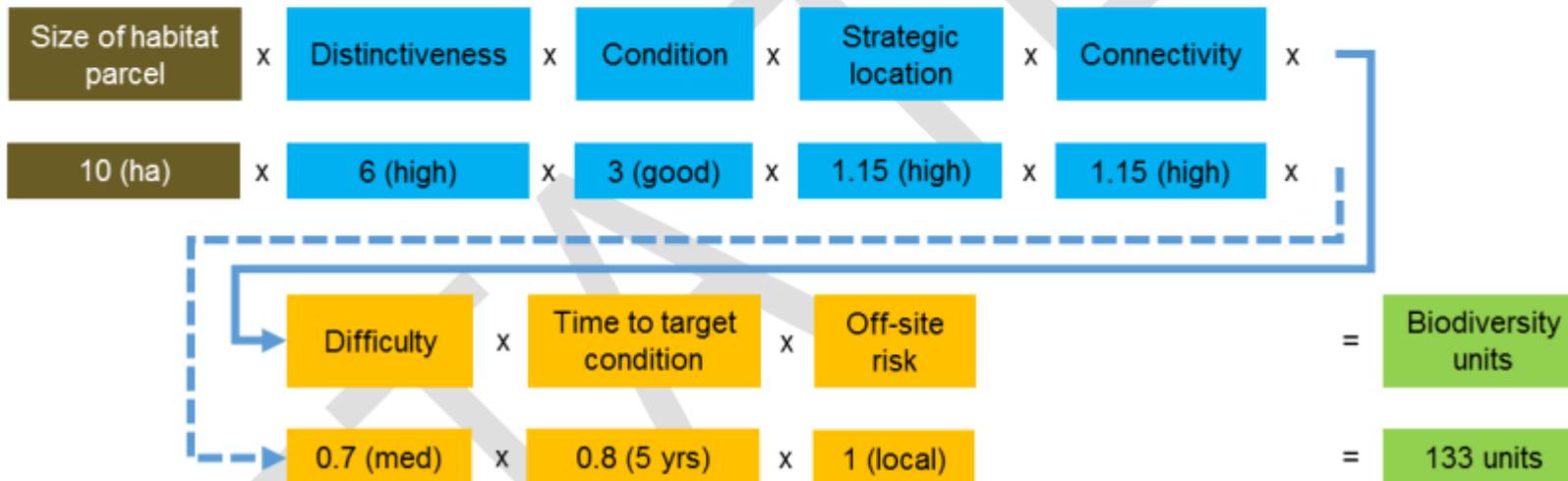
Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity metrics:

PRE-intervention biodiversity calculation (the baseline)

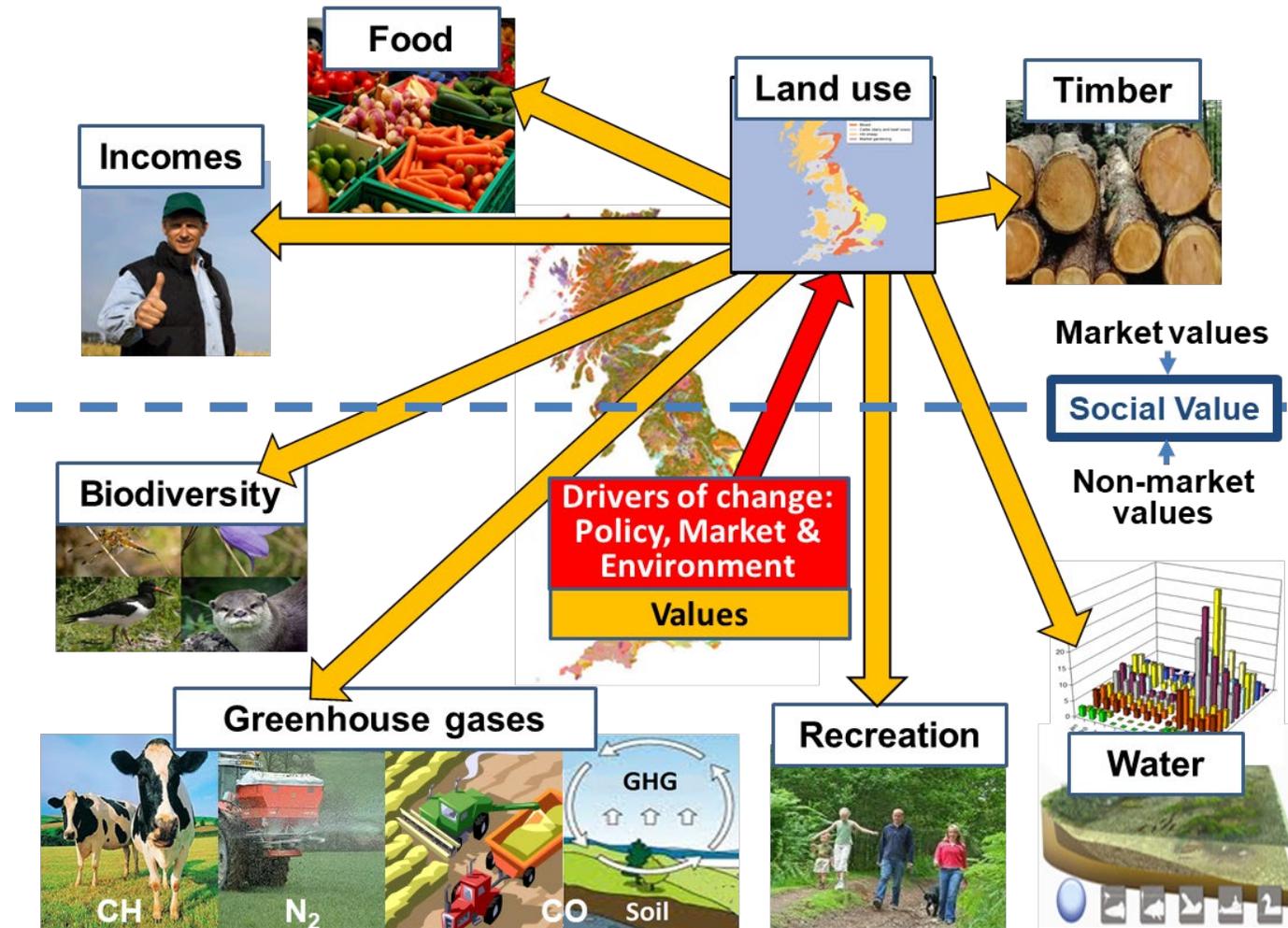


POST-intervention biodiversity calculation (for newly created habitat)



Environmental Net Gain

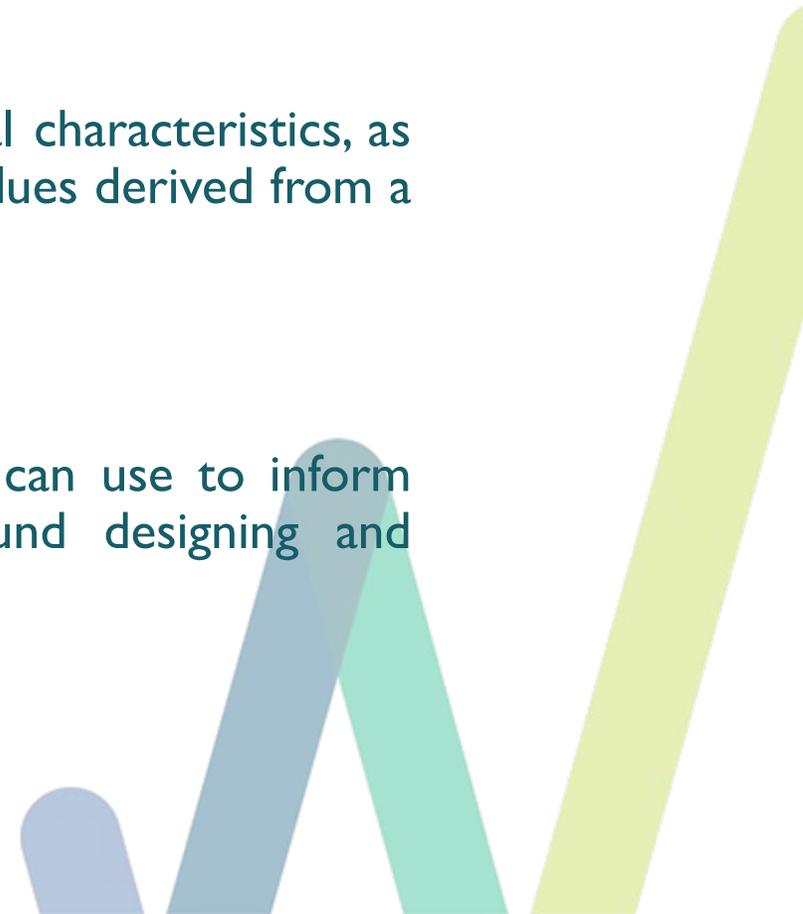
Advocated in 25Y Environment Plan; recommended by Natural Capital Committee; welcomed by Planning White Paper – extends beyond biodiversity



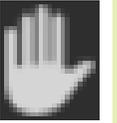
New SWEEP project outline

aims to explore society's perspectives about **ENG** compensation scenarios

- characterise and understand the role of: size, location and ecological characteristics, as well as the characteristics of the affected population, on the social values derived from a range of net gain compensation scenarios;
- through an economic valuation survey of various options
- provide information that policy-makers and relevant organisations can use to inform their (active and potential) decision-making and strategies around designing and delivering **ENG**.



Workshop format

- ✓ We would like to ask 4 key questions today
- ✓ and hear responses from a range of sectors, including perspectives of:
 - marine issues / land issues / developers / environmental groups
 - / planners / policy-makers / general public / implementation organisations
- ✓ All opinions and perspectives are welcome!
- ✓ Please let us know your thoughts by using the 'Raise Hand' function  to speak or type your response/comments using the Chat Function 

About you...

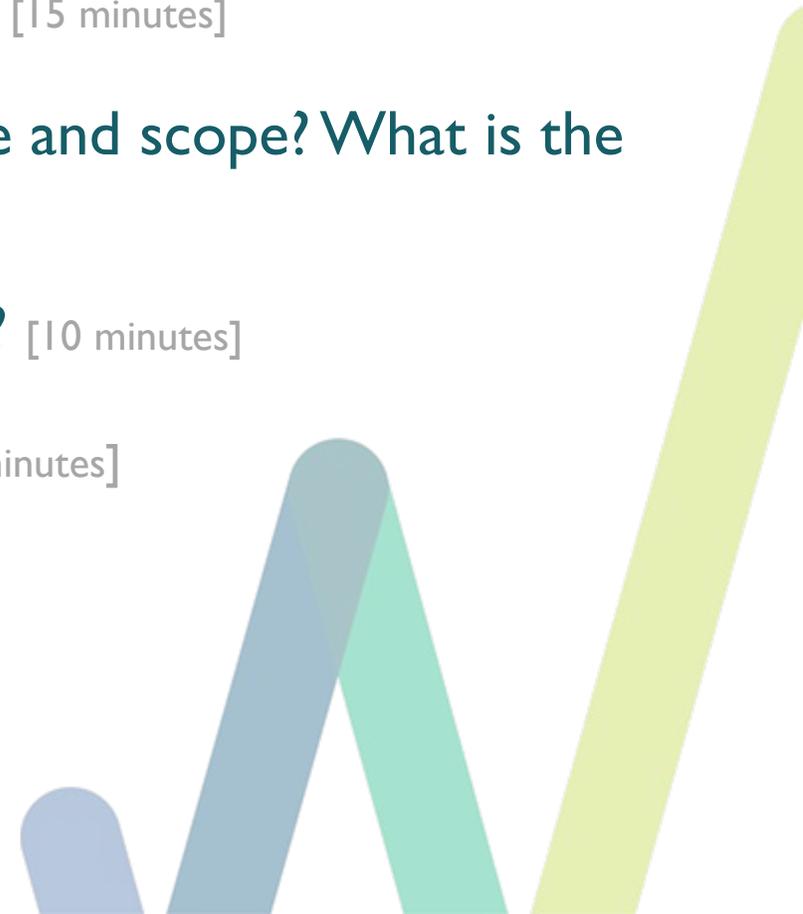
- Which of these categories best represents your background? (*Developer / Environmental organisation / Planner / Policy-maker / Academic / General public / Community Group / Implementation organisation / Other*)
- Is your work mostly focused on: (*terrestrial habitats / marine habitats / both*)?
- How familiar are you with the information that's been presented about Biodiversity Net Gain and the potential move to Environmental Net Gain? (*Very familiar / Somewhat familiar / I've just learned about it now!*)
- Do you have previous experience with Biodiversity Net Gain or other forms of environmental offsetting projects? (*Yes / No*)



Our 4 key questions

Our 4 key Qs are:

- 1) Why move from **Biodiversity** to **Environmental Net Gain**? [15 minutes]
- 2) How could **ENG** be delivered in practice in terms of scale and scope? What is the vision? [15 minutes]
- 3) How could **ENG** be financed, implemented and regulated? [10 minutes]
- 4) What are the key issues to prioritise for our project? [10 minutes]



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 - 4) What are the key issues to prioritise for our project? [10 minutes]
- We will first hear responses from selected participants.
 - Then we welcome all other viewpoints – verbally (please ‘Raise Hand’) or written (via ‘Chat’).

Q1. Why move from Biodiversity to Environmental Net Gain? *[15 minutes]*

- **For what purpose?**
specific ecosystem services (e.g. recreation, carbon sequestration, etc.),
holistic environmental gains, other drivers?
- **For whose benefit?**
residents of developments, local populations, the less well off, society at large?
- **What are the challenges and opportunities?**



Q2. How could **Environmental Net Gain** be delivered in practice, in terms of scale and scope? What is the vision?

[15 minutes]

- **Scope of delivery?**
For which developments (e.g. housing, infrastructure, etc.)?
Terrestrial and/or marine?
- **Location of delivery?**
On-site or offsite? Habitat banking?
Existing environmental networks and programmes?
- **Scale of delivery?**
Local, regional, national?
- **What are the challenges and opportunities?**



Q3. How could **Environmental Net Gain** be financed, implemented and regulated? *[10 minutes]*

- **What are the financing options?**
pooled blanket levy, brokered credits?
- **How should delivery be regulated and by whom?**
Local planning authorities? Conservation Covenants?
- **Issues of timescales and accountability?**
- **What are the challenges and opportunities?**



Q4. What are the key issues to prioritise for our project?

[10 minutes]

- Have **any voices not been represented** well today?
- What are the **most critical blockages to ENG** becoming a reality? **Could they be explored in our survey?**
- What **other key issues** should we build into our survey scenarios?
- **Who would find our survey results and project outputs useful? And can you suggest any practical ways that they could be useful?** (e.g. feeding into developing strategies, other projects, informing particular decisions, etc.)
- Would you like to **be part of our stakeholder network and mailing list?**
Please contact us at sweep@exeter.ac.uk