13th UIC Sustainability Conference

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Biodiversity offsetting

Perspective to 'No Net Loss' of biodiversity through the experience of BPL project - Eiffage

Joachim Lémeri,
Head of sustainable engineeri
EIFFAGE

- BBOP community

- Case study: biodiversity offsetting of BPL project in France

What is BBOP?

Created by **Forest Trends** in 2004

International Forum on mitigation hierarchy and offsets

Offset: BBOP defines a biodiversity offset as a no net loss (or net gain) conservation outcome, in the specific context of the development project concerned.

What is BBOP?

BBOP: 12 years of international, multi-stakeholder agreement and experience

100 members – companies, governments, banks, NGOs, individuals.

BBOP can help railways show a 'Net Gain' of biodiversity

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Publications:

Principles and Standard

Methodologies and Guidelines

Case studies

BBOP can help railways show a 'Net Gain' of biodiversity

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Influence: BBOP has helped shape:

World Bank Safeguards (2015), IFC Performance Standards (2012 and 2015), IUCN policy (2016), EU NNL Initiative, companies' commitments and practice, governments' laws and policies.

Webinar series ↳ *http://bbop.forest-trends.org/pages/webinars*

Membership organization & Community of Practice

BBOP can help railways show a 'Net Gain' of biodiversity

Opportunities:

Planning for 'Net Gain' can help secure permits, build stakeholder support & demonstrate sustainability

Risks:

Poor application of the mitigation hierarchy & low standards puts permits at risk, causes delays, increases costs & liabilities

➔ *High Standards: essential! See BBOP Standard*

Experience & lessons learned:

30 years of successes and failures with mitigation of impacts on biodiversity worldwide

We know what's needed for success

Join BBOP for support and access to best practice!

http://bbop.forest-trends.org/

Eiffage, a BBOP member

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Construction & publics works company

4 branches | multiservices activities | 14 €bn revenue | 65 000 employees

Construction Real estate

Public works | Roads

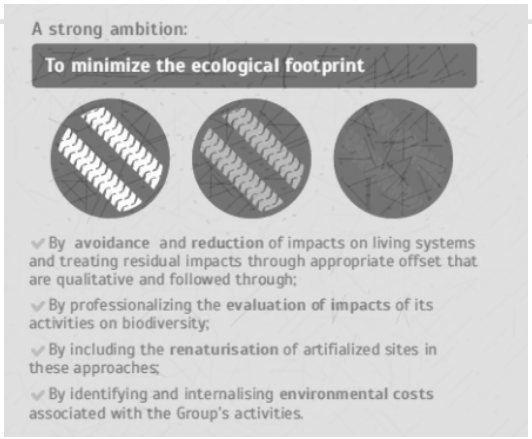
Energy

Concessions | PPP

In 70 countries

Eiffage and offsetting

Our biodiversity commitments:



2009

STRATÉGIE NATIONALE POUR LA BIODIVERSITÉ

1st 2012

2nd 2015

BBOP Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme

2013

Offsets

~ 3,000 ha

of natural areas managed
for biodiversity offsetting in France
(20 to 50 years)

EIFFAGE LGV BPL

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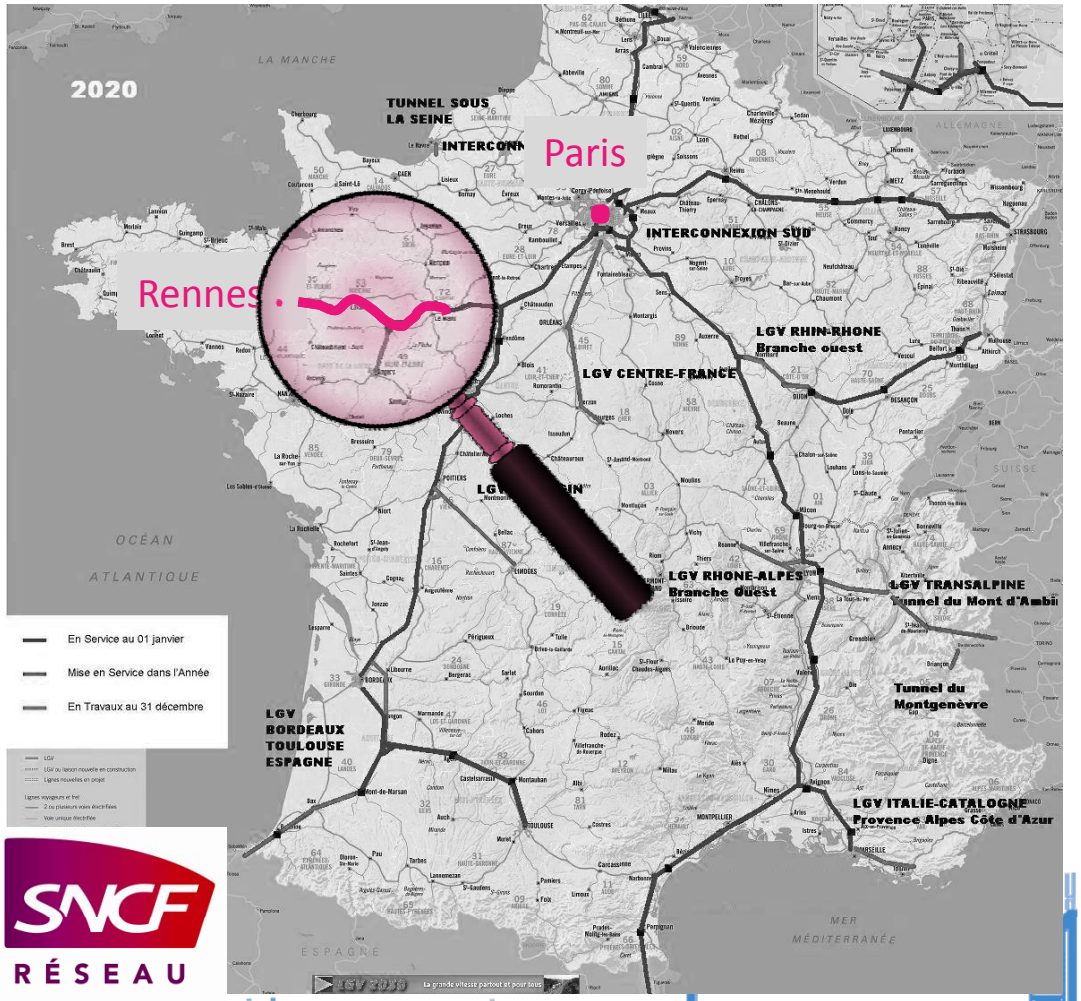
BBOP promotes 'No Net Loss' of biodiversity

How does Eiffage do it on BPL high-speed line?

The BPL project



182 km new HSL
Speed of 320 km/h
25 years PPP contract | 3.3 €bn invest.
26 M m^3 earthworks
11 viaducts + 220 civil structures
820 km of rails | 1.6 M tons of ballast

37’
saved between
Paris-Rennes

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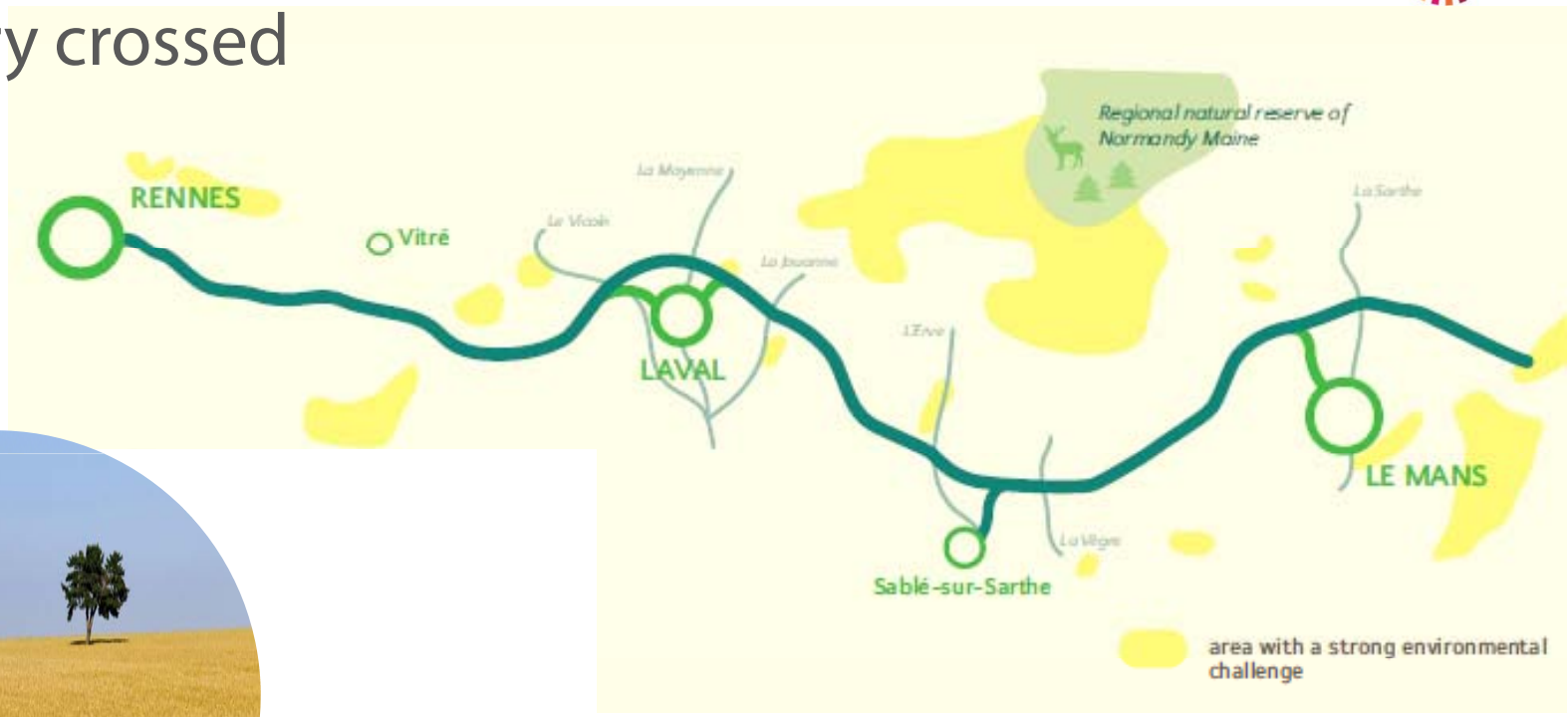
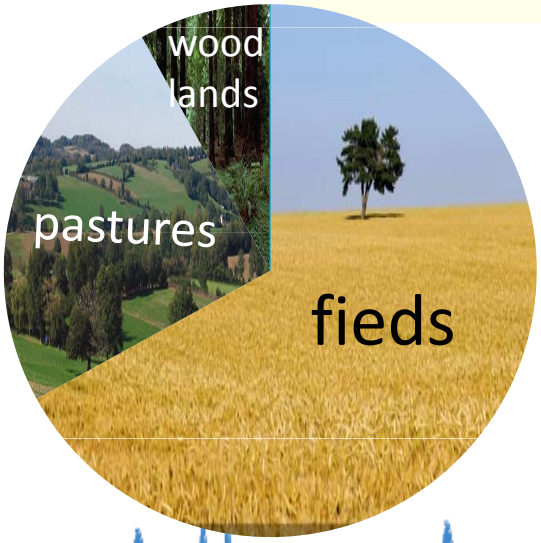
Territory crossed





Context of offsetting in France

- A real 15 years feedback
- Applies only at the project level, not at the territorial programme level
- The ecological equivalence method is recommanded
- Rural territories =⊖and pressure

Mitigation hierarchy

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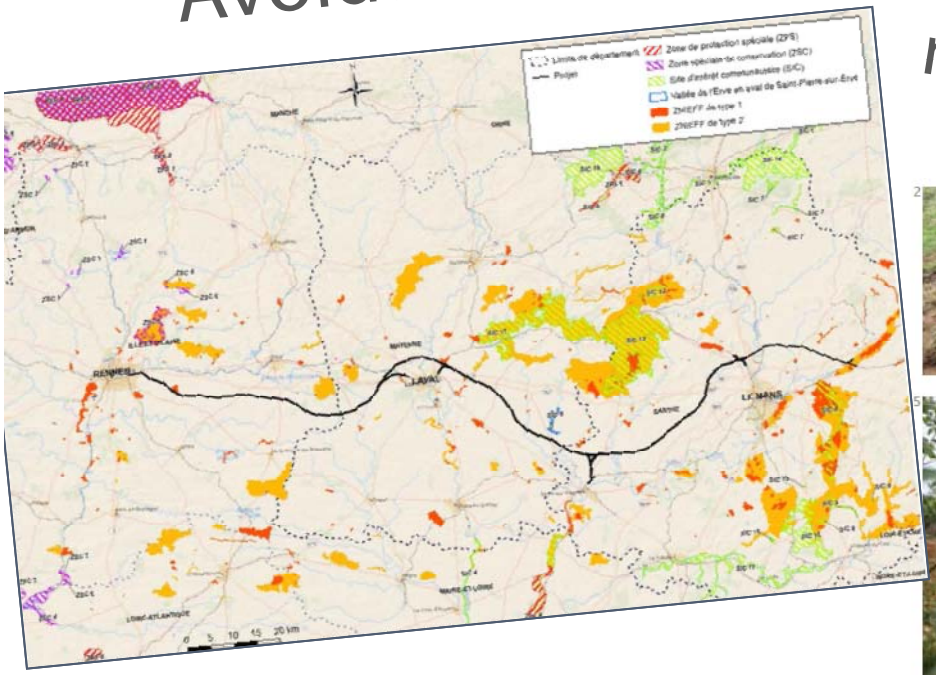
Avoidance 1st



Then minimization

Mitigation hierarchy

Avoidance 1st

Then minimization

… but residual impacts ➔ Compensation

Residual impacts

natural areas:	209 ha
woodlands:	62 ha
ponds:	70 u.
waterway:	7.2 km
total:	**350 ha**

70 protected sepecies concerned.

Ecological debt

x 2.6

total: 350 ha 915 ha

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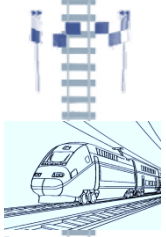
permit OK



Ecological debt

Method:

- Offsetting ratios
- Modulation:
  - ecological quality of impacted habitats
  - species rarity
  - quality of offset sites (if known)
- "Habitat" approach

"like for like"

permit OK

Offset implementation

3 key factors:

- To find the offset sites on ground
- The command of the property
- To ensure the command of the long-term ecological management

Offset implementation

915 ha spread in **230** offset sites along the route

Offsetting as close as possible to the imapcts

Compensation sites

targets

Offset implementation

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100% property acquired at the start of 2015

80%

acquisition

20%

contract

sites OK

Offset implementation

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1 **ecological plan** / site including:

- Specifications for farmers
- Ecological works & maintenance
- Offsetting management (surveys,…)

1 **offset operator** selected

plans OK

Offset on ground

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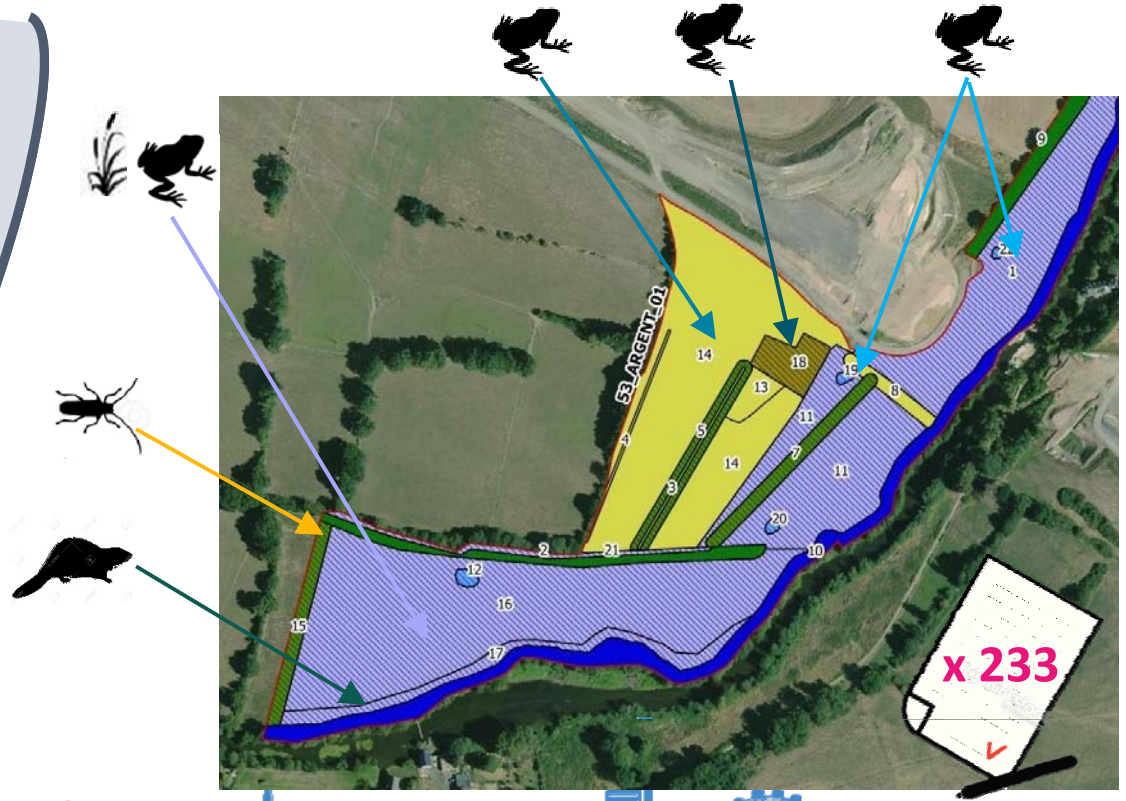
Ecological plans

2013 - 2014



plans OK

Offset on ground

+

Today:

90% ecological works done

+ 500 ha will be cultivated by farmers

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works OK

Offset achievment

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Ecological works

Surveys programme

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Fluteau nageant transfert																									
Amphibiens mares transfert																									
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Chiroptères nichoirs										visite annuelle de contrôle de l'intégralité de la mesure															
Insectes grand Capricorne																									
Insectes Pique Prune																									
Oiseaux nichoirs Huppe																									
Oiseaux Oedicnème																									
Truite fario																									
Loutre/castor ripisylve																									
Crossope ripisylve																									
Suivi biologiques - 11 CE				Initial			n+3			n+6															
Réalisation d'IPR		In.		Suivis à N+3/6 ou N+2/4/10																					

sampled surveys
survey
visit

mangement

Offset achievment

→ **Monitor & adapt the offset in time**

⛔ **3rd key factor to a sucessful offset**

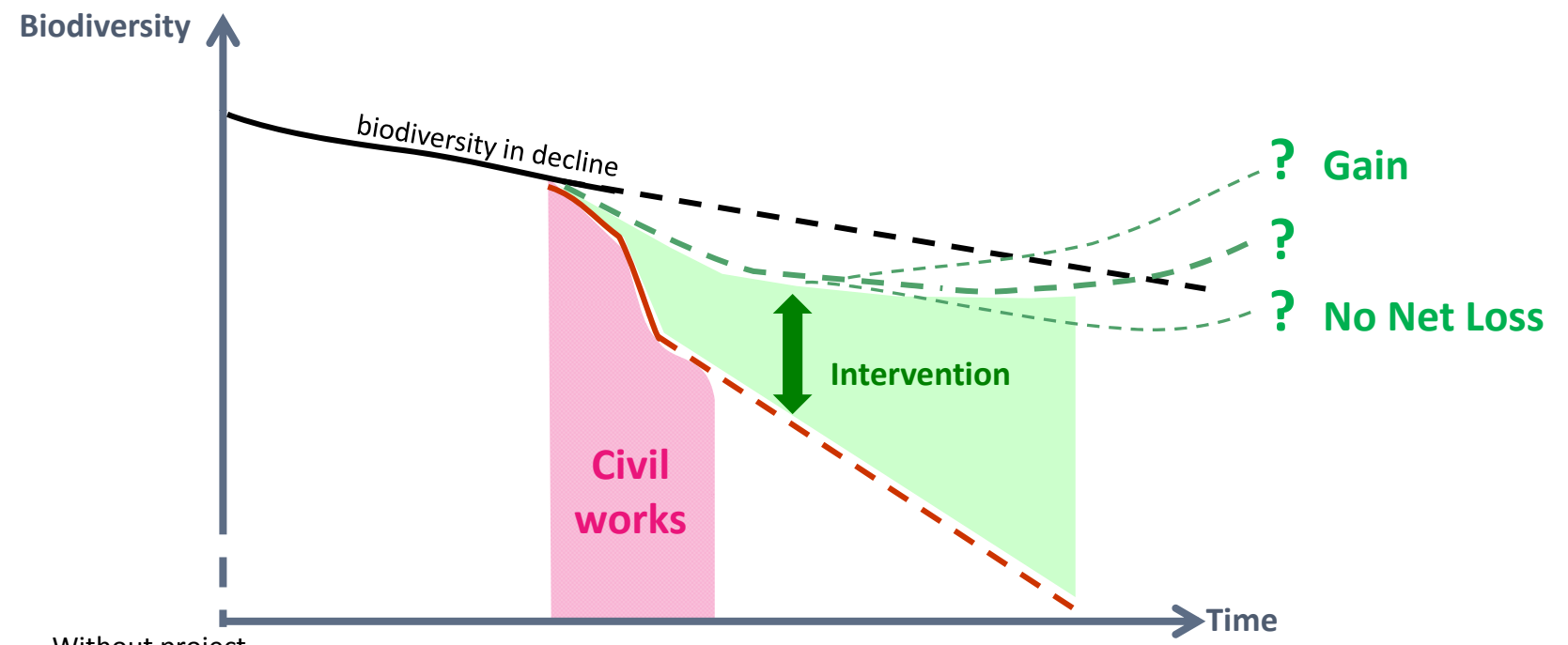
Losses
(residual impacts)

Gains
(offset)

mangement

No net loss?

... see you in 20 years!



mangement

The BPL offsetting project :

➔ A case study for the mitigation hierarchy application

➔ To share with the railway sector for future project

➔ THE key factor is anticipation

- Key success to achieve No Net Loss:
  - Collaborative behaviour with local stakeholders
  - Property command to implement the offset
  - Offset long-term management
  - Land-use considerations as important as ecological objectives
  - Good knowledge of offseting sector

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Railways & biodiversity

Thank you for your attention!

Joachim Lémeri,
Head of sustainable engineeri

EIFFAGE