

The EACOP pipeline route was finalized based on a rigorous environmental, biodiversity, social and engineering constraints review. The review process applied the mitigation hierarchy to avoid, minimize, restore, and offset. The final route was defined resulting in an optimized right of way (ROW) 30m wide that minimized impacts on biodiversity.

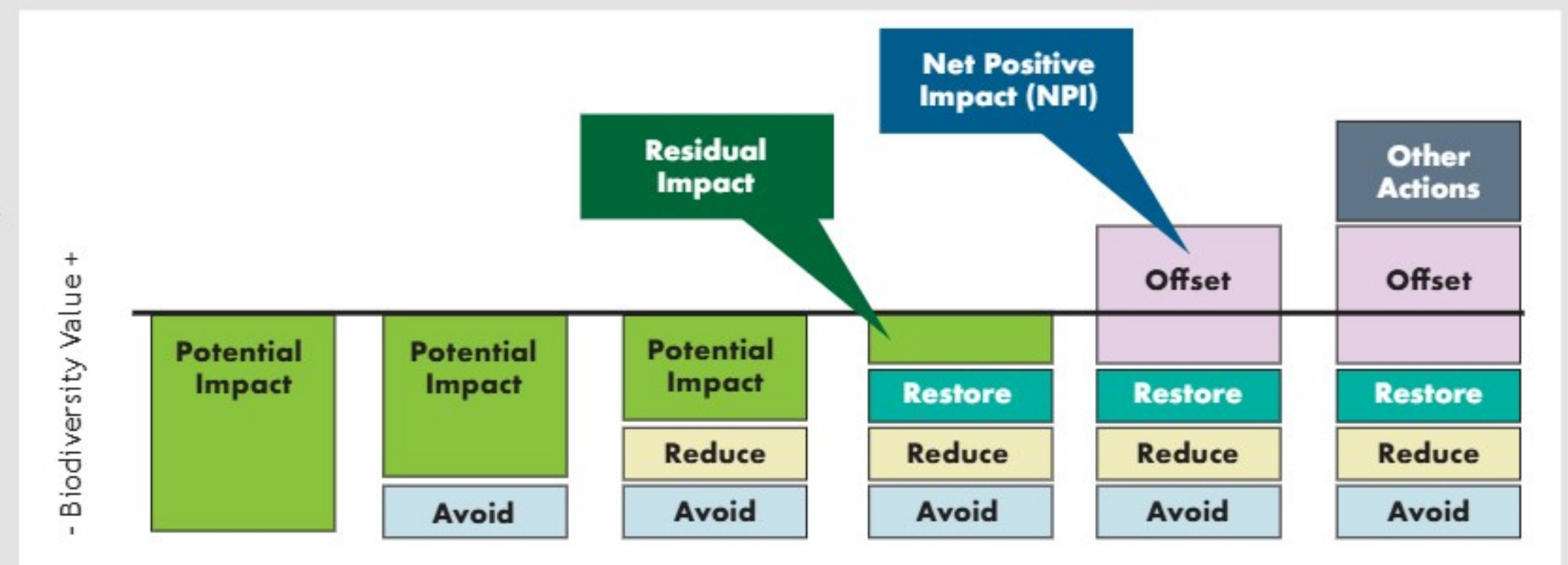
IFC Performance Standard 6

EACOP manages potential impacts on biodiversity in line with regulatory requirements and international best practices defined by the International Financing Corporation's (IFC) Sustainability Framework that articulates a commitment to sustainable development and provides an approach to environmental risk management through the Performance Standards (PS). PS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources guides the protection and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. EACOP has committed to complying with PS6.



Mitigation hierarchy for biodiversity

As per PS6 guidance, residual impacts remaining after the mitigation hierarchy has been implemented are to achieve Net Gain (NG) for Critical Habitat¹ (CH) and No Net Loss (NNL) for Natural Habitat². The 2019 Guidance Note 6 and PS6 (2012) both describe the biodiversity offsets that are necessary following the implementation of the Mitigation Hierarchy (Avoid, Minimize, Restore, Offset).



¹ Critical habitats are areas with high biodiversity value where the project's mitigation strategy will be described in a Biodiversity Action Plan and will be designed to achieve net gain.

² Natural habitats are areas composed of viable assemblages of plant and/or animal species of largely native origin, and/or where human activity has not essentially modified an area and where mitigation measures will be designed to achieve no net loss.

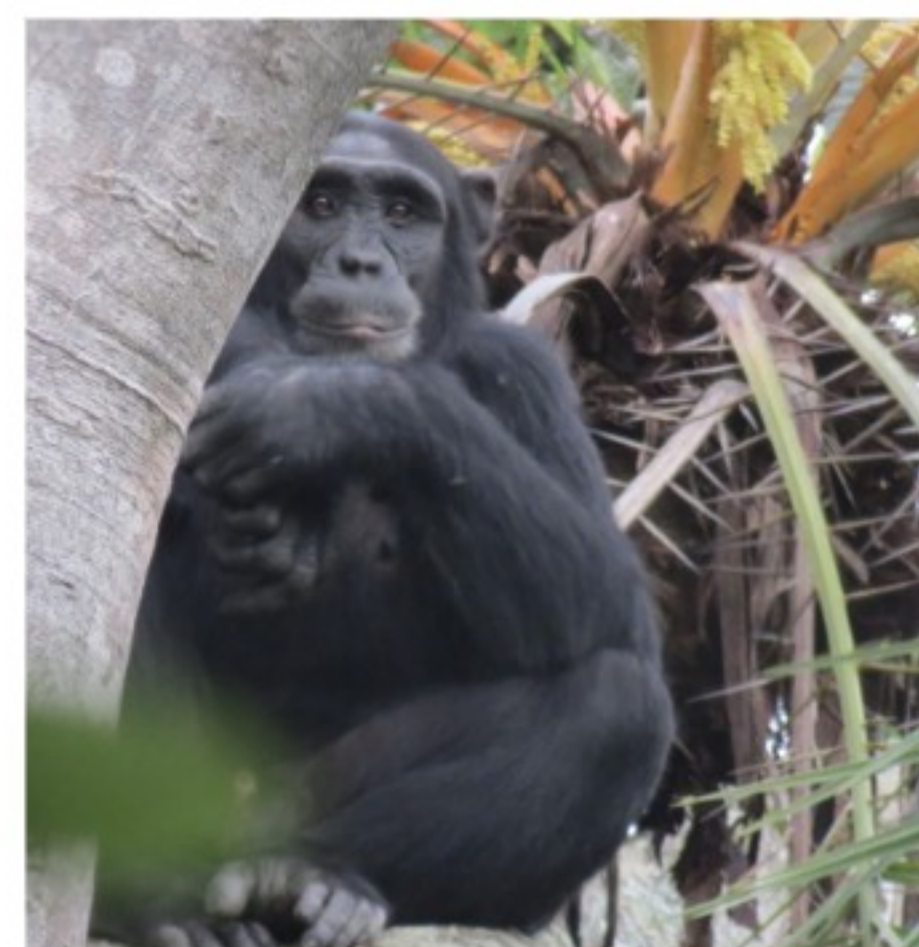
Biodiversity Offsets

Achieving No Net Loss and Net Gain in Terrestrial Ecosystems

Following detailed surveys, EACOP assessed the residual impacts on CH and NH distributed over the 1443-kilometer right of way. This stage was followed by the development of scenarios for offsets, which were included in Biodiversity Action Plans for Uganda, Tanzania, and EACOP's marine component.

Terrestrial ecosystems in Uganda: EACOP has designed several offset scenarios that include the development of a Northern Albertine Rift Action Plan for Chimpanzees, and an offset that targets the Rwizi River's watershed that contributes to the Samuka RAMSAR site located to the East of the pipeline ROW. This program also includes a community-based conservation program for Grey-crowned Cranes.

Terrestrial ecosystems in Tanzania: For Burigi Chato National Park, EACOP and the Tanzania National Park Authority (TANAPA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish offsets that will support baseline surveys, development of the management plan, and conservation of key species such as Ashy Red Colobus Monkey. EACOP is also collaborating with the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) to support the identification and community-driven conservation of wildlife corridors which would benefit large mammals in the EACOP area of influence.



EACOP and Tanzania Forestry Services (TFS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to mitigate the residual impacts on the Forest Reserve. These are Ruiga River and Biharamulo Forest Reserves which are in proximity by the pipeline, other Forest Reserves are Minziro, Mgori, Oyova, Ngogwa, Busangi, Mwakalundi, Mbogwe, Mkwani and Korogwe. The mapping and conservation options for Itigi Thicket in Mgori Forest Reserve and the surrounding areas where the habitat is found will be among the offsets measures.

Additionally, EACOP will conduct surveys, community awareness initiatives, and community-based conservation for the Pancake Tortoise and Karamoja Apalis.

Other offset activities that EACOP has initiated include support to the Tanga Water Fund through erosion control and headwater restoration for the Sigi River. EACOP has also initiated a study to better understand local and migratory movements of the shorebirds along the West Asian - East African Flyway.

This flyway is a major migratory pathway between wintering and breeding grounds for shorebirds and there is a lack of information about its use, this will enable monitoring, further studying communication, and advocacy, of the conservation status of these species and enhance the sustainable development of these coastal habitats.

Achieving Net Gain in Marine Ecosystems

Three critical habitats were identified in the Tanga seascape, seagrass beds, mangrove forest, and coral reef as well as critical habitat qualifying species such as the Indian Ocean humpback dolphin and dugong (which has unfortunately not been seen since the early 1990s).

Even though it does not directly impact on them, EACOP offsets include seagrass, mangrove, and coral reef restoration. A study of the Indian Ocean humpback dolphin will provide the baseline for conservation efforts for this elusive species, and a humpback whale telemetry study is aimed at developing an understanding of their movements. By implementing the offsets with local community participation, we are also raising awareness of the value of these habitats as well as more effective and sustainable management of marine livelihood resources.



Protected Areas

The route selection took into account off-site measures to achieve No Net Loss in Natural Habitats and a Net Gain in Critical Habitats while avoiding the majority of Protected Areas, including National Parks and Forest Reserves. All Protected Areas and sites of biodiversity interest have been taken into consideration for mitigation and safeguarding the species and habitats.

The majority of protected areas are traversed along edges that have been significantly altered by plantations or subsistence farming (crop-growing, livestock grazing), but some areas have a combination of natural habitat and modified habitat that retain biodiversity value, and some parts of the route pass through protected areas.

None of the Protected Areas has IUCN categorized, however, the route crosses parallel to the road through the Burigi Chato National Park, which was gazetted after the route had already been chosen. Micro re-routes and modifications to narrow the Right of Way were made in this area to further reduce the footprint on critical habitat.

All Protected Areas are treated as Critical Habitats and therefore require Net Gain and EACOP is meant to carry out additional programs to support and improve conservation goals and efficient management of the areas.

We are working together with TANAPA, TAWA, and TFS in Tanzania and National Forest Authority (NFA) and the Wetlands Division in Uganda to design offsets so that the project satisfies both national laws, regulations and the IF6 PS6 requirement of Net Gain and No Net Loss.

