

Dear IMEC members and friends,

This is an update for the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management's Impact Mitigation and Ecological Compensation (IMEC) thematic group. If you've any items to include in the next newsletter, please share them with me: m.maron@uq.edu.au.

As always, feel free to share this email with colleagues and encourage them to become members. They can do this by joining the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management [here](#) and select IMEC as a group of interest. If already a member of the CEM, you can join via the Union Members Portal, [here](#).

IMEC UPDATES

Next IMEC webinar

Make a note in your calendar for our **next IMEC webinar: [Spatial analysis to inform the mitigation hierarchy](#), which will be held on 3 July**. In this webinar, we'll hear from three speakers with expertise in preparing and providing biodiversity information for decision-making on development projects and mitigation, with case studies from South Africa and Mozambique. [You can register here](#) – we'll send a stand-alone reminder soon.

Nature positive working group

Congratulations to the IMEC Nature Positive working group which has completed its first major output – a technical paper which aims to contribute towards and support businesses in developing approaches that may contribute to nature-positive outcomes. The document is undergoing final stages of IUCN review and formatting, and we can hopefully share the final version soon.

Discount for IMEC members: GEMFS 2023

The [Global Environmental Markets and Finance Summit](#) (GEMFS 2023) is on in July this year (see details below). IMEC members located outside the host country (U.S) of GEMFS 2023 can participate virtually at a significant saving. Get the virtual pass for USD\$129 when you use IMECVIRTUAL code on [GEMFS registration payment page](#) by 15th June. The pass allows access to the live stream, recordings and opportunities to connect with other attendees from around the world.

COMBO+ Training materials and Technical Policy Briefs on the Mitigation Hierarchy

Thank you to those IMEC members who contributed in May to the review of the technical policy briefs and training materials prepared by [COMBO+](#). Over the coming weeks we will be revising the drafts in light of the comments that we received and will share updates on our progress. Once complete, this will form a freely available set of plain-language materials outlining best practice implementation of the mitigation hierarchy.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

IUCN consulting opportunity – guidance on restoration measures and offsets

IUCN is seeking expressions of interest in a small consultancy to develop guidance on how to incorporate restoration efforts into the IUCN Policy on Biodiversity Offsets (considering

design, implementation and governance of biodiversity offset schemes and projects). This project will provide clarity on the role and application of restoration within the mitigation hierarchy. Please contact Marcos Valderrabano (Marcos.VALDERRABANO@iucn.org) and Steve Edwards (Steve.EDWARDS@iucn.org) if you are interested for details of this opportunity.

Applied Ecology Resources: Nature Positive Economy

Explore the concept of a nature positive economy through this Zoom event hosted by the British Ecological Society. The workshop will take place 15th June with speakers such as Heather Elgar (Woodland Trust), Dr Ruth Waters (Natural England) & Dr Sam Sinclair (Biodiversify). You can head to the [event page](#) to register for the free event.

Climate Emergency E-Conference 2023

The Climate Emergency E-Conference 2023 will take place online, on 22nd June. This year's e-conference will examine approaches to sustainability strategies, explore material innovations and circular economy practicalities, and review relevant Net Zero policies from around the world. Hosted by The Institution of Structural Engineers, the event aims to strengthen knowledge of net zero policy and explore practical steps for maximising circularity in projects, through real-life examples and tools. Free registration and program information can be accessed [here](#).

ICCB 2023

The Society for Conservation Biology's 31st International Congress for Conservation Biology ([ICCB 2023](#)) will take place from July 23-27, 2023 in Kigali, Rwanda at the [Kigali Convention Centre](#). ICCB is a global forum for addressing conservation challenges and for presenting new research in conservation science and practice. If you are planning on going, please let me know (m.maron@uq.edu.au) in case we have a chance to organise a catch-up of IMEC members at the conference.

PUBLICATIONS

IMEC members have shared the following new papers:

- Barbara Souza and coauthors have published '[Evaluating the potential of biodiversity offsets to achieve net gain](#)' in the Journal of Conservation Biology. The paper reviews literature to determine the principles that should underpin biodiversity offset planning and the criteria for offset evaluation at the project level.
- The '[ICE manual of Blue-Green Infrastructure](#)' has been published by the Institution of Civil Engineers. The manual, authored by Claire Wansbury and Carla-Leanne Washbourne, provides a complete practical reference on Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) solutions – demonstrating how BGI is a vital part of infrastructure engineering design.
- '[Evaluating the impact of biodiversity offsetting on native vegetation](#)', by Sophus zu Ermgassen and several IMEC co-authors evaluates the long-running biodiversity offsetting program in Victoria, Australia, and shows the importance of considering self-selection bias in the design and evaluation of regulatory policy. A great twitter thread from Sophus summarising the work [is here](#).
- The application of Nature-based Solutions in rural drylands were explored by Shahzoda Alikhanova & Joseph W. Bull in the paper '[Review of Nature-based](#)

[Solutions in Dryland Ecosystems: the Aral Sea Case Study](#)'. The paper provides a systematic literature review to explore the potential opportunities for the application of Nature-based Solutions in rural drylands across the globe.

- ['Improving the ecological outcomes of compensatory conservation by addressing governance gaps: a case study of Biodiversity Net Gain in England'](#), has been published by Emily Rampling and co-authors. The authors discuss biodiversity conservation policies, looking at Biodiversity Net Gain in England, and exploring the variation in strategies and their effectiveness.
- ['The business of biodiversity – What is needed for biodiversity markets to work'](#), has been published in the Journal of Ecological Management & Restoration. David Lindenmayer and co-authors explore recent discussions in Australia about market-based initiatives. The authors specifically highlight the importance of defining biodiversity and the targeted biodiversity components, using appropriate and agreed biodiversity metrics, and implementing rigorous, independent biodiversity monitoring.
- Divya Narain and co-authors have published a paper titled ['Global assessment of the biodiversity safeguards of development banks that finance infrastructure'](#). The paper assesses the biodiversity safeguards of public development banks and development finance institutions, examining their coverage of best practice principles and degree of harmonisation among the approaches different banks employ.

OTHER UPDATES

The Development Corridors Partnership will soon launch a compilation of contributed papers on impact assessment for large infrastructure projects. This sourcebook, titled "Impact Assessment for corridors: from infrastructure to development corridors", was edited by Jon Hobbs and Diego Juffe Bignoli, and includes contributions from over 50 authors from 13 countries. Using insights from Africa, Asia and South America, it compiles 22 contributed papers written between 2020 and 2021, covering many facets of the opportunities and challenges presented by the rapidly growing number of infrastructure and corridor developments around the world. The work is dedicated to Jon Hobbs who sadly passed away in September 2021. It will be available for download as a full pdf or by chapters **after Monday 3rd July** here: <http://developmentcorridors.org/impact-assessment-for-corridors/>