Taking the landscape view: from *ad hoc* to strategic offsets

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Death by thousand cuts

- loss of habitat through the approval of multiple discrete and/or consecutive developments that alone seem insignificant
Too narrow focus on single impacts…

Cumulative impacts are not picked up

- Combined habitat loss across multiple development in space and time
- Impacts on configuration – loss of function
- Lack of understanding of the marginal impact of individual development
Not all impacts are equal

Species viability vs. Amount of habitat
Too narrow focus on single impacts…

…but also too narrow focus on single offsets

– Opportunities to coordinate offsetting actions for improved gain missed
What are strategic offsets?

- **Spatial planning (WHEN)**
  - Joint offsets
  - Systematic planning

- **Temporal planning (WHERE)**
  - Advanced offsets
  - Complementing temporal offsets

- **Action planning (WHAT)**
  - Tailored offset portfolios

- **Conservation context (HOW)**
  - Offsets to support (but not replace) broader conservation goals

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Selwood, Kujala et al. In prep.

Dr Katherine Selwood
Spatial planning

Selwood, Kujala et al. In prep.
“Systematic” offsetting

Increase in the habitat protected after development and offsetting across 596 species

Temporal planning

Selwood, Kujala et al. In prep.
Timing off offsets

Gordon et al. 2011 Environmental Modelling & Software
Conservation context

- Offsets to support (but not replace) broader conservation goals
- Synergies across multiple conservation programs and players
  - Complementing actions
  - Effective use of resources
  - Monitoring of additionality
Conservation context

Underwood 2011 Environmental management

Separate conservation and offset programs

Joint conservation and offset program
How to be more strategic?

- Re-think the objective
- Spatial information (biodiversity, development, offsets) at ecologically appropriate spatial and temporal scale
- Mechanisms that allow centralised
  - assessment and approval of impacts
  - coordination, monitoring and evaluation of offsets
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Thank You

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