



# Ensuring Net Gain for People as well as Biodiversity

Julia Baker

Biodiversity Technical  
Specialist, Balfour Beatty

# 2016 EIA Amendment

---



Introduced  
human health  
impact  
assessments



But “human  
health” is open to  
interpretation



Define health for  
impact assessments?

# Health in **IEMA** Environmental Impact Assessment

A Primer for a Proportionate Approach

Adopt 'health' definition by World Health Organisation:

*a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing,  
not merely the absence of disease*

“the endpoint of EIA population & human health analysis should describe the predicted health and wellbeing outcomes”



*How does this project affect people's wellbeing?*

*How does BNG affect people's wellbeing?*



# What is wellbeing?

*A positive physical, social and mental state*

Multi-dimensional holistic evaluation of people  
& their needs to thrive

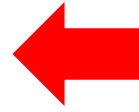




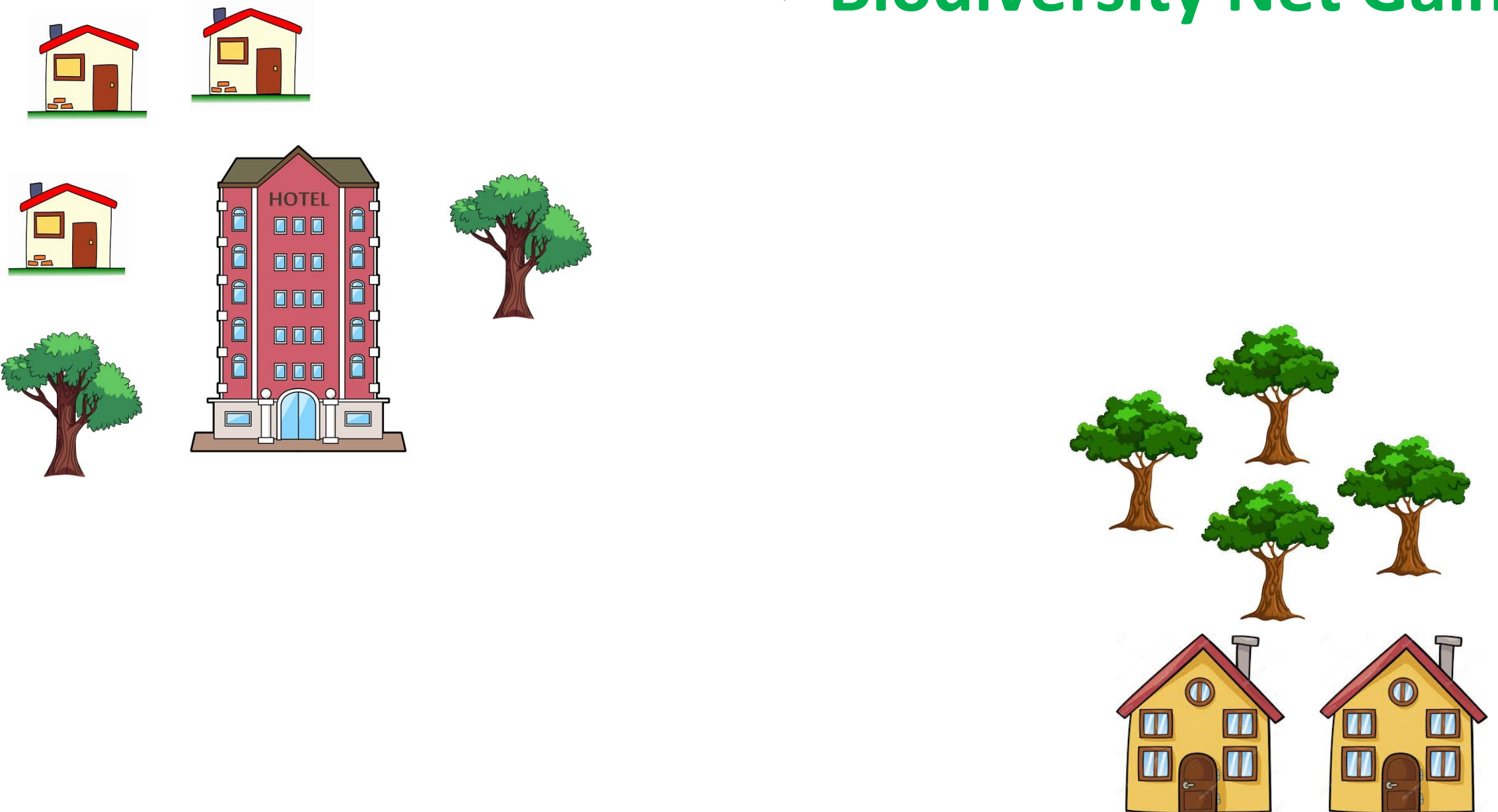
**People  
depend on &  
value nature**



# How can BNG affect people's wellbeing?



# ✓ Biodiversity Net Gain







Improved air  
quality

Climate  
regulation

Reduced  
flood risk

Recreation

Sense of place

Social  
cohesion

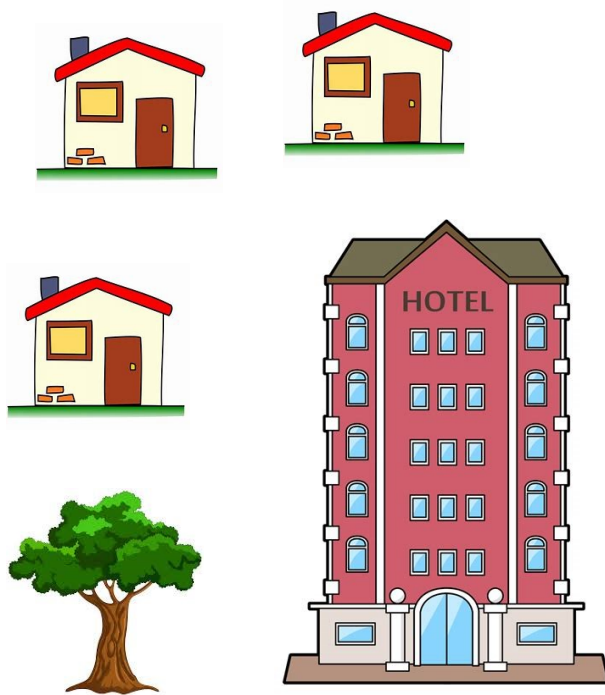
Personal  
value

# Wellbeing baseline assessment

-

## How important is nature to their wellbeing?

# ✓ Biodiversity Net Gain



- People at the development site lose benefits from the woods
- Different people benefit from the offset
- Fewer people benefit & in different ways



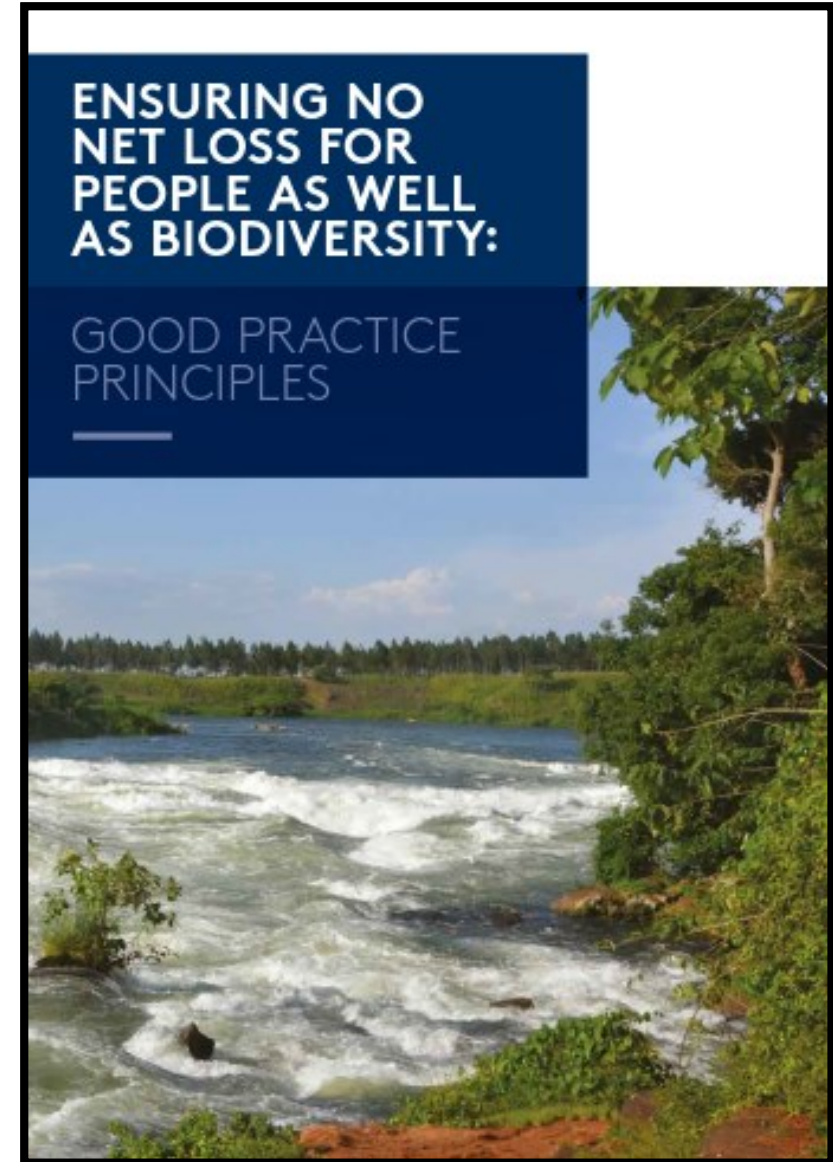
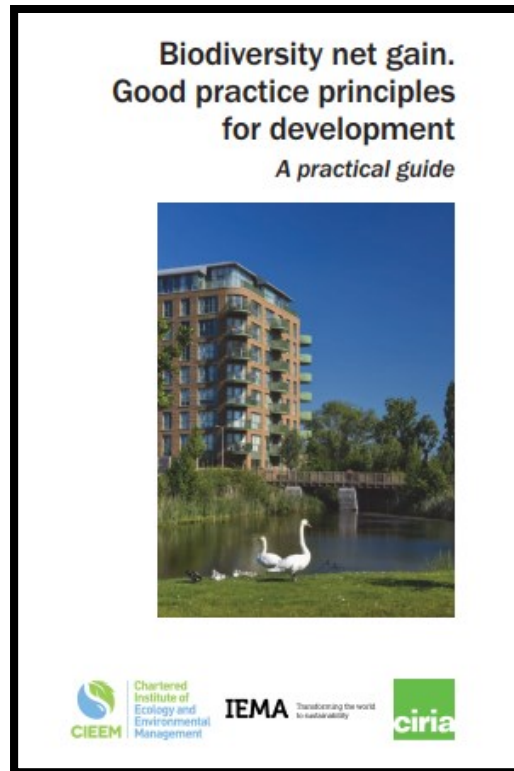


Isn't this  
already  
covered?



# Biodiversity Net Gain

Good practice principles for development





Principles	Biodiversity	People
Set thresholds:	Irreplaceable habitat & SDS	

Principles	Biodiversity	People
Set thresholds:	Irreplaceable habitat & SDS	Certain BNG impacts on people cannot be compensated for





Principles	Biodiversity	People
Apply the mitigation hierarchy	Avoid; minimise; restore; offset	

Principles	Biodiversity	People
Apply the mitigation hierarchy	Avoid; minimise; restore; offset	Yes! People can value nature that is of low ecological interest





Principles	Biodiversity	People
Achieve a measurable gain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Net gain in ?</li><li>• Metric V2</li></ul>	

Principles	Biodiversity	People
Achieve a measurable gain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net gain in ?</li> <li>• Metric V2</li> </ul>	Safeguard & ideally enhance wellbeing of the people <u>affected</u>



*How important is nature  
to their wellbeing?*

*Join us tomorrow!*



**Local, national, global biodiversity  
values**



**Local  
people's  
needs**



**National level development  
priorities**

# Trade-offs

---





## Align biodiversity & wellbeing objectives







# Ensuring Net Gain for People & Biodiversity

---

- 2016 EIA amendment introduced human health impact assessments
- Calls to adopt wellbeing
- If working on EIAs, engage colleagues to align BNG & wellbeing objectives for assessments and design
- Other projects with BNG, consider people
- Ecosystem assessments & Natural Capital Accounts
- These are only part of the picture
- If working on ES/NCAs, acknowledge wellbeing is a vital consideration

**BNG - watch this space!**





**Thank  
you!**