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Conservation International

Initial Biodiversity Assessment and Planning



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Presentation Overview

- > Introduction to Conservation International
- > Business case for initial biodiversity assessment and planning (IBAP)
- > Overview of IBAP approach
- > Take home messages of IBAP application

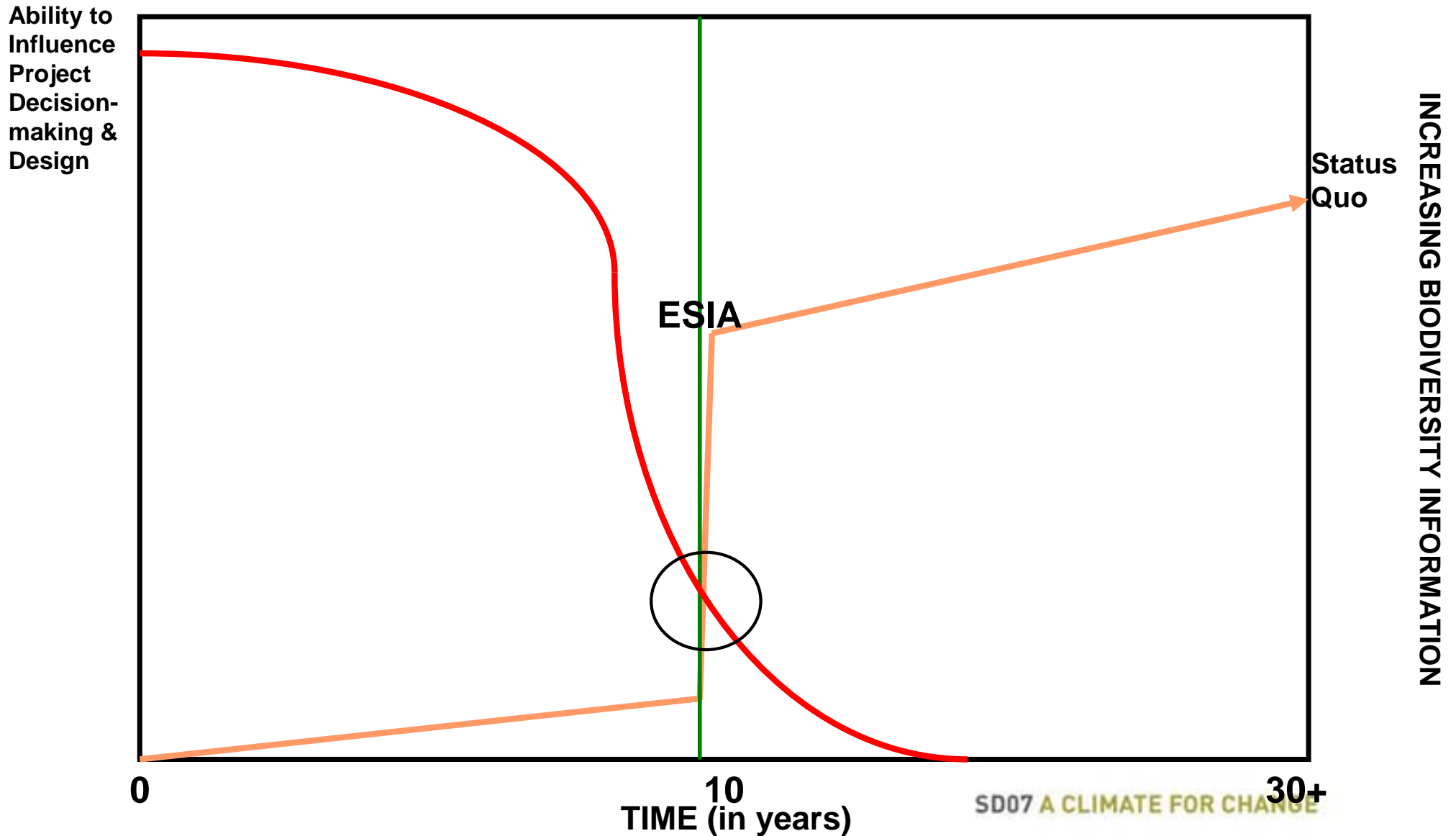



Business Case for Initial Biodiversity Assessment and Planning (IBAP)

- > New development projects have the potential to negatively impact biodiversity (species, habitat types and ecosystem functions)
- > Understanding these impacts early on in the project development process provides clear value to companies through
 - Risk avoidance
 - Maintaining license to operate
 - Cost savings
 - Enhanced corporate reputation
- > Companies looking for tools to assist them in identifying these potential impacts early on

Ability to Influence Project Decision-Making and Design with Biodiversity Information without IBAP

Strategic Planning Exploration & Discovery Evaluation and Feasibility Construction & Commissioning Operation Closure & Rehabilitation Post-Closure



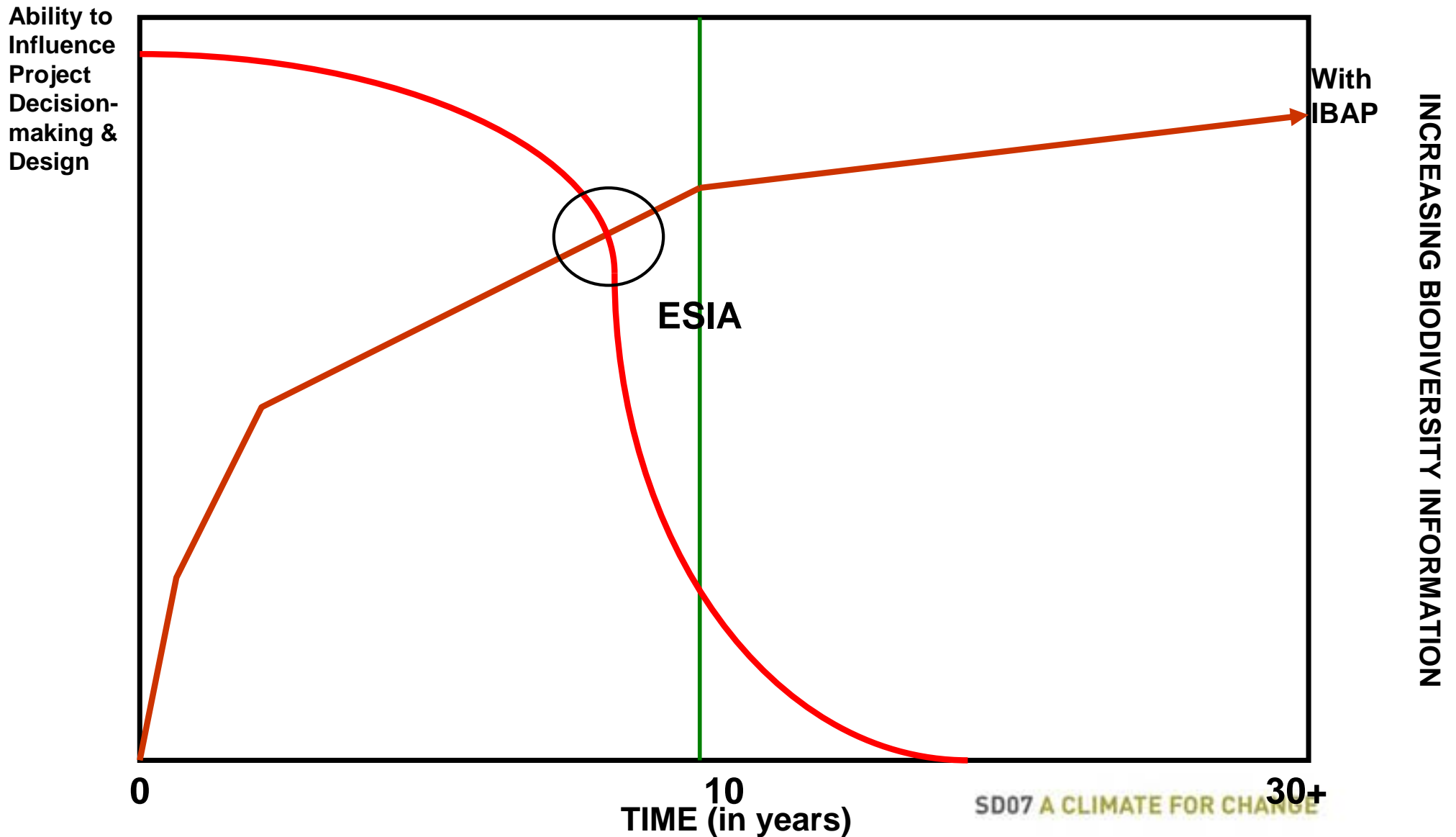


What is the Initial Biodiversity Assessment and Planning approach?

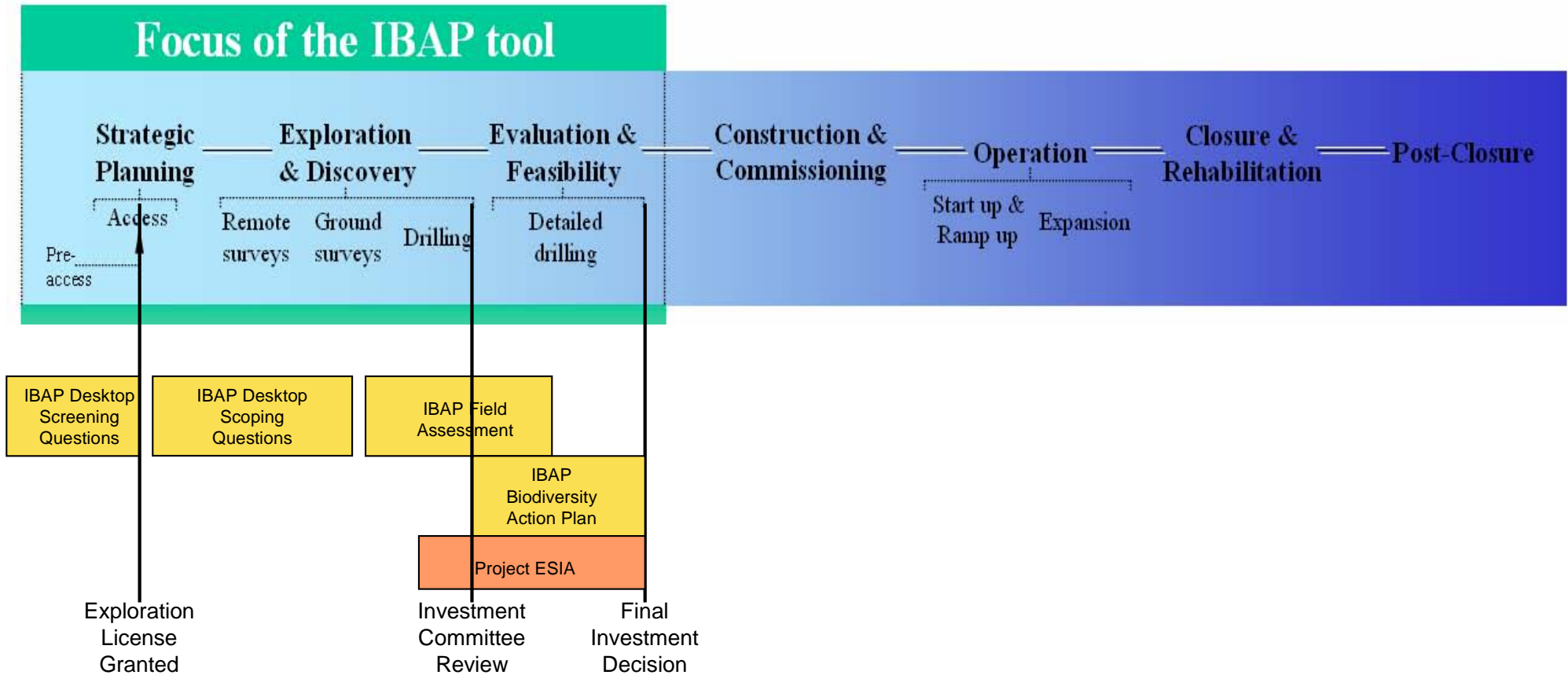
- > Assists companies in incorporating biodiversity in their risk analysis and decision-making and planning processes for new development projects.
- > Designed to be applied from the earliest stages of project development, inform and enhance the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), and inform the development of an environmental management plan.
- > IBAP components:
 - Desktop biodiversity and socio-economic assessment.
 - Preliminary field assessments—biodiversity and socio-economic.
 - Recommendations for pre-project biodiversity action.

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IBAP Stages and Project Lifecycle





IBAP Step 1: Desktop Assessment

- > A review of existing literature and data that asks a series of questions regarding the:
 - (a) current known biodiversity significance of the region and
 - (b) existing or potential future socio-economic pressures on biodiversity.
- > Generates ‘coarse-resolution’ information that can highlight high risk and other biodiversity issues that may need to be resolved.
- > Questions are grouped into two phases that correspond to stages within the project life cycle:
 - Screening Questions – asked prior to land acquisition
 - Scoping Questions – asked prior to significant on-the-ground exploration activities (e.g. detailed drilling)
- > Approximate timelines & outputs: ½ day (screening questions), 5 page report; 10-15 days (scoping questions), 30 page report
- > Can be conducted by HSE managers, consultants, or partners

Desktop Assessment Example: BHP Billiton & Alcoa in Suriname

- Most taxonomic groups had not been surveyed
- Existing socio-economic pressure via small-scale gold mining





IBAP Step 2: Field Assessment

- > Expeditions that bring together teams of field biologists to conduct rapid, first cut assessments of the biological value of a selected area, and targeted local community engagement to conduct high-level analysis of biodiversity pressures and opportunities.
- > Verifies information gathered in Step 1.
 - occurrence of species, habitat and ecosystems at the site
 - current extent of socio-economic related biodiversity pressures
- > Fills data gaps surrounding key species, habitats and ecosystems; and socio-economic related biodiversity pressures and conservation opportunities.
- > For areas with higher risk biodiversity issues, this should ideally be conducted before significant on-the ground impact, at the latest during the pre-feasibility stage of project development.
- > Not an impact assessment or a substitute for full baseline work in ESIA, but can provide groundwork for this.
- > Approximate timeline & output: 3-4 weeks, 150-200 page report
- > Can be managed by HSE managers and conducted by teams of consultants and/ or partners

Field Assessment Example: Rio Tinto in Guinea, West Africa



- Flagged key habitat types and species of conservation concern
- Generated regional interest in conservation activities



IBAP Step 3: Pre-Project Biodiversity Action Plan

- > A set of actions company identified by previous IBAP stages that the company and other stakeholders can take to better understand and conserve biodiversity at the site during the early project development. Depending upon findings these may include:
 - Additional field surveys;
 - Pre-project actions to conserve key biodiversity values identified at the site;
 - Continued engagement with local stakeholders to understand and address pressures and opportunities for conservation; and
 - Establishment and implementation of preliminary biodiversity indicators and monitoring protocols.
- > Approximate timeline & output: typically formulated from information gathered in IBAP steps 1 & 2, integrated into final report, though sometimes an additional stakeholder workshop is useful to gather more information
- > Can be led by company or local partners, with participation from communities, government, NGOs, scientists, and other relevant stakeholders

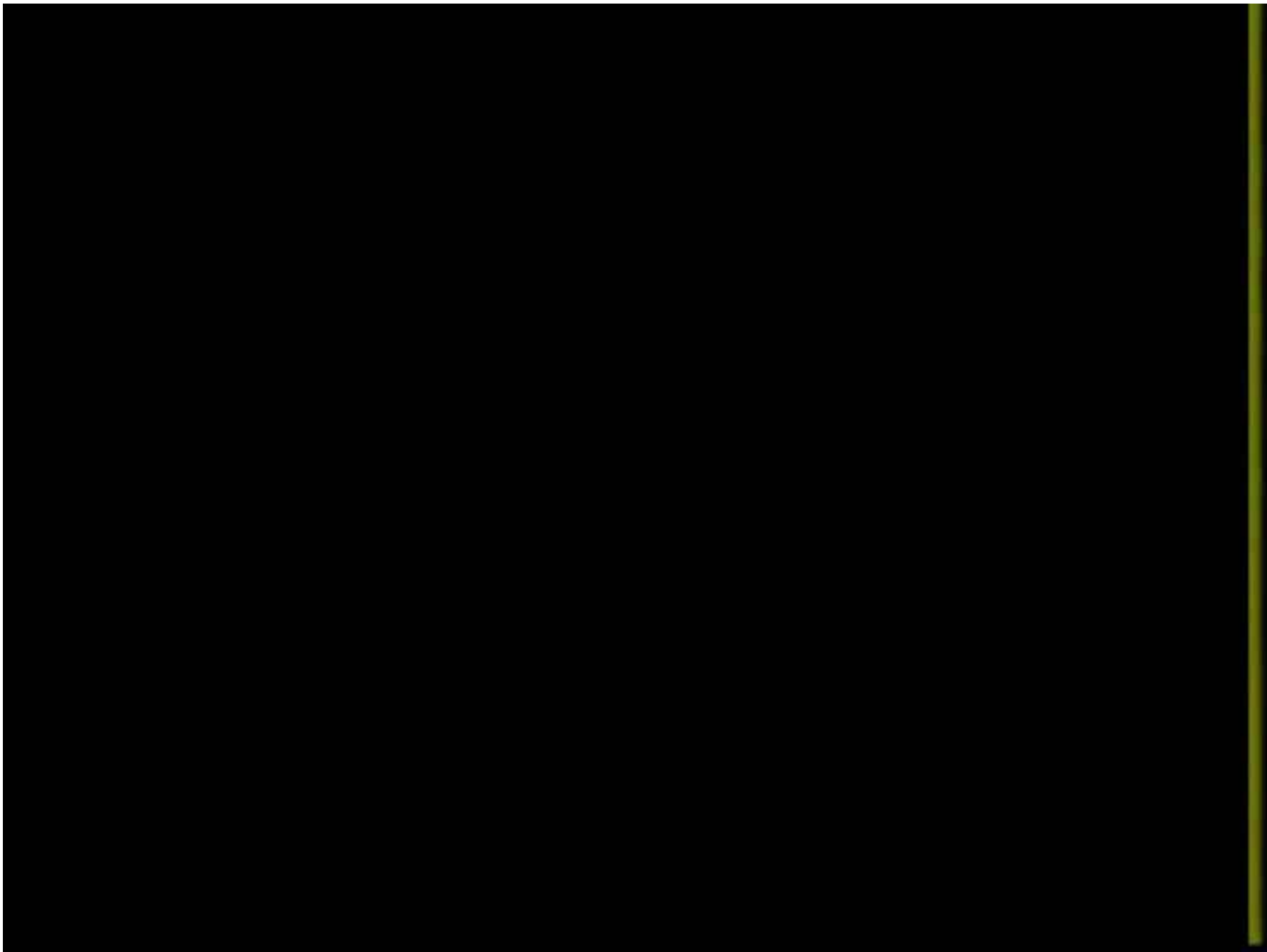
Pre-Project Biodiversity Action Plan Example: ConocoPhillips in Venezuela



- Over-fishing and oil & gas development identified as primary pressures
- Local fishermen monitoring program developed



Pause for Short DVD Presentation





Take Home Messages of IBAP Approach

- > Allows for collection of biodiversity information at a much earlier stage in project development than is typically done;
- > Provides information for better management of biodiversity-associated risks and better stakeholder relations;
- > Generates high quality scientific data made publicly available to benefit all interested stakeholders whether or not a project goes ahead;
- > Delivers a cost effective product in a timely manner;
- > Builds local scientific capacity; and
- > Catalyzes local support for biodiversity conservation and regional land use planning.



Thank You

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