

FORMAT		
1. Name of resource	Oxford Principles for Net Zero-Aligned Carbon Offsetting	
2. Location	https://www.smithschool.ox.ac.uk/publications/reports/Oxford-Offsetting-Principles-2020.pdf	
3. Alternative location	https://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/oxford_principles_for_net_zero_aligned_carbon_offsetting	
4. Author[s]	Myles Allen, Kaya Axelsson, Ben Caldecott, Thomas Hale, Cameron Hepburn, Conor Hickey, Eli Mitchell-Larson, Yadvinder Malhi, Friederike Otto, Nathalie Seddon, & Steve Smith	
5. Publisher/producer/host	University of Oxford	
6. Year	2020	
7. Suggested citation	Allen, M. and others (2020). Oxford Principles for Net Zero-Aligned Carbon Offsetting. University of Oxford, available at https://www.smithschool.ox.ac.uk/publications/reports/Oxford-Offsetting-Principles-2020.pdf .	
8. Languages in which available	English	
9. Geographic area resource relates to	Worldwide	
10. Does the resource relate to a specific time frame?	No	
11. Type	Report	Yes
	Toolkit/Framework/Roadmap	Yes
	Sign-post to other resource (database)	
	Case studies	
	Other	
12. If this is part of an initiative, what is the initiative?		
COLLECTIONS AND COLLECTIONS-BASED INSTITUTIONS		
13. Explicit links to collections	No	
14. Explicit links to museums/libraries/archives	No	
15. Types of institutions the resource covers	Museums	X
	Archives	X
	Libraries	X
	Other	X
16. Types of collections/disciplin	Arts, humanities and social sciences: philosophy,	

es the resource covers	psychology, religion, social sciences, law, politics, language, arts and recreation, architecture, literature, history, geography and ethnology, anthropology, archaeology	
	Science, natural history, technology, medicine, engineering, manufacturing	X
17. If no explicit links to collections, justification for inclusion	The principles can be adopted by collections-based institutions as part of their commitment and strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate change.	
HOW IT CONTRIBUTES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT		
18. Collections-related activities the resource relates to (mark all that apply)		
Develop collections to protect and safeguard wider cultural and natural heritage more effectively , for example by targeting collecting to threatened forms of heritage in strategic ways		
Use collections to promote learning and educational opportunities that contribute to sustainable development more effectively , for example education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development and/or skills development relating to collections		
Use collections to promote cultural participation/social inclusion more effectively , for example by reducing barriers to participation, to ensure no-one is 'left behind'		
Use collections to promote sustainable tourism more effectively , for example by developing new products based on local cultural heritage, and/or considering the rights of stakeholder groups in relation to collections		
Use collections to support research that contributes to sustainable development (including all forms of personal and self-directed research at all levels that make use of stored collections) more effectively, for example by providing effective facilities, collections and information to meet researchers' needs		
Make decisions around collections that contribute to sustainable development more effectively		X
i. employment (recruiting, staff training, staff safety)		
ii. energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, reduction, monitoring and reporting		X
iii. waste management and reduction of waste		X
iv. transport (forms of transport, energy use)		X
v. commercial activities including copyright and IP		X

vi. governance and management	X
vii. security, disaster preparedness and risk reduction	
Direct external leadership, partnerships and collaborations towards sustainable development more effectively , for example by developing impactful partnerships	
19. Does the resource relate clearly to any international conventions (mark all that apply)?	
Culture conventions:	
1952, 71 Protection of Copyright and Neighbouring Rights	
1954 Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict	
1970 Fighting Against the Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property	
1972 Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	
2001 Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage	
2003 Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage	
2005 Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions	
Rio Conventions:	
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	X
AIMS AND CONTENT	
20. What issues does the resource aim to address?	<p>“Many countries and “non-state actors”, such as cities, regions, companies, organisations and financial institutions, are pledging to achieve net zero emissions. While some actors can feasibly eliminate all of their emissions to reach “absolute zero”, some actors will have residual emissions. For example, emissions from biological processes in agriculture, some industrial processes, and fossil fuel combustion for aviation will likely be difficult to eliminate fully by 2050. A number of actors therefore include “carbon offsets” within their climate strategy. These are purchased credits representing a certified unit of emission reduction or carbon removal carried out by another actor. A number of critically important questions emerge for the users of offsets. How can offsetting be made a credible means of achieving net zero? What types of offsets should be used and when? How can actors purchasing offsets, and stakeholders holding them accountable, avoid the risk of greenwashing? How can users catalyse the cost-effective supply of the right kind of offsets at scale? The Oxford Principles for Net Zero Aligned Carbon Offsetting are designed to help clarify these questions, particularly for non-state actors who want to design and deliver rigorous voluntary net zero commitments and develop high quality carbon markets. We urge offset buyers to adopt and integrate the Oxford Offsetting Principles into their activities. We also</p>

	<p>encourage regulators and standard setters to reflect them in the design of offsetting systems and net zero standards. Observing these Principles will help ensure that users avoid buying low-quality offsets and that their decarbonisation plans are compatible with achieving net zero.”</p>
21. Intended audience of resource	<p>“The Oxford Offsetting Principles are intended to be used by a variety of stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporations and organisations designing and delivering credible plans for achieving net zero. • Financial institutions for the same purpose, as well as to assess the plans of investees and borrowers. This can inform risk and impact analysis, as well as engagement and stewardship activities. • Civil society to gauge which organisations are aligning with the Paris Agreement, revealing leaders and laggards. • Initiatives and networks that promote net zero target setting and disclosure by non-state actors, who can align their requirements with the Oxford Offsetting Principles. • Regulatory and standard setting bodies to create voluntary or mandatory rules or other policy interventions that drive the economy toward net zero, including enabling investments that can support the realisation of the Oxford Offsetting Principles on a global basis. • Researchers and academic institutions to address their own emissions, or to guide research to fill time-sensitive knowledge gaps in the carbon offsetting space.”
22. Process of development	<p>“The Oxford Principles for Net Zero Aligned Carbon Offsetting were devised through collaboration with experts across the University of Oxford. The Principles incorporate expertise from the Blavatnik School of Government, Environmental Change Institute, Nature-based Solutions Initiative, Oxford Martin School, Oxford Sustainable Finance Programme, Saïd Business School, School of Geography and the Environment, and the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment.”</p>
23. Organisation/structure/contents	<p>Executive summary Principles (see Framework section) References</p>
FRAMEWORKS	
24. Framework structure	<p>The principles can be regarded as a framework:</p> <p>Principle 1: Cut emissions, use high quality offsets, and regularly revise offsetting strategy as best practice evolves</p> <p>A number of best practices have been developed to set international consensus on what constitutes credible</p>

	<p>carbon offsetting. Adherents to these principles must first and foremost observe these best practices for all purchased offsets, as summarised in the Stockholm Environment Institute’s comprehensive introduction to the topic and other similar guides. Best practice generally covers the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise reducing your own emissions and scaling up removals, minimising the need for offsets to achieve net zero • Use offsets that are verifiable and correctly accounted for, have a low risk of nonadditionality, reversal, and creating negative unintended consequences • Disclose current emissions, accounting practices and targets to reach net zero <p>Principle 2 – Shift to carbon removal offsetting An immediate transition to 100% carbon removals is not necessary, nor is it currently feasible, but organisations must commit to gradually increase the percentage of carbon removal offsets they procure with a view to exclusively sourcing carbon removals by mid-century...</p> <p>Principle 3: Shift to long-lived storage Offsets increasingly need to come from activities that store carbon permanently, with very low risk of re-release into the atmosphere...</p> <p>Principle 4: Support the development of net zero aligned offsetting ...What explicit actions can buyers and sellers of offsets take in the short to medium term to support net zero aligned offsetting? What early impacts should users of offsets aim to bring about? Organisations can use their buying power and political and social credibility to drive meaningful change today in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market signalling • Aggregating demand and supply • Forming sector-specific alliances • Support the restoration and protection of a wide range of natural and semi-natural ecosystems in their own right • Incorporating the Principles into regulations and standards
25. Relevant policy considerations	Yes
26. Resources for implementation identified	Yes

27. Specific assessment points/indicators/milestones/action plan for monitoring	Yes
28. ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY COVERED BY RESOURCE (mark all that apply)	
People (social sustainability)	X
Planet (environmental sustainability)	X
Prosperity (economic sustainability)	X
Peace	X
Partnerships	X
29. CROSS-CUTTING CONSIDERATIONS COVERED BY RESOURCE (mark all that apply)	
Gender perspectives	
North and South perspectives	X
HOW THE RESOURCE CONTRIBUTES TO AGENDA 2030 AND THE SDGs	
HOW AGENDA 2030 AND THE SDGs FEATURE IN THE RESOURCE	
30. SDGs and Agenda 2030 specifically mentioned?	No
31. SDGs specifically mentioned?	No
32. SDG targets specifically mentioned?	No
33. SDG indicators specifically mentioned?	No
SDGs AND SDG TARGETS AND LINKAGES	
34. Comments on SDG linkages	The resource is most closely linked to SDG 12.6 (adopt sustainable practices and reporting) and, notably 12.7 (green procurement), and can contribute to SDG 8.9 (sustainable tourism) by helping reduce the negative impacts of tourism. These contribute to SDGs 12.2 (sustainable use of natural resources) and 13.3 (climate action). Ensuring financial flows from offsetting effectively support development of sustainable projects supports SDGs 9.A, 17.3, 17.16 and 17.17, and that they support biodiversity and ecosystems supports SDGs 15.A and 15.B. Ensuring transparency of claims regarding support for climate action supports SDGs 16.6 (effective, transparent and accountable institutions) and 16.10 (ensure access to information).

35. SDGs and SDG targets the resource helps advance	
<p>SDG 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all 8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products</p>	<p>Numbers of jobs created or supported that relate to sustainable tourism drawing on local products (e.g. craft producers).</p> <p>Develop and implement plans to reduce and remove negative impacts of tourism.</p> <p>Numbers of activities and/or products drawing on local culture.</p> <p>Value to artisans and source communities of activities and products drawing on local culture.</p>
<p>SDG 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation 9.A Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.</p>	<p>Plans in place to support development of sustainable and resilient infrastructure in developing countries through financial, technological and technical support, for example through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. joint projects, ii. funding bids, iii. sharing equipment, collections and collections information as appropriate, iv. in order to support development of high-quality infrastructures for sustainable development, research and innovation.
<p>SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns SDG 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources</p>	<p>Reduction of material footprint in terms of reductions in consumption of biomass, fossil fuels, metal ores and non-metal ores.</p>
<p>SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns 12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices</p>	<p>Clear visions, strategies and plans in place for all aspects of sustainability – environmental, social and economic (people, planet, prosperity)- across all areas of activity.</p> <p>Visions, strategies and plans relating to sustainability to be publicly available and incorporated into planning</p>

<p>and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle</p>	<p>documents.</p> <p>Commitments to be in line with local, regional, national and/or international targets and ambitions.</p> <p>Incorporation of sustainability into reporting for funders and other stakeholders, including the public. Reporting to include commitments and progress towards targets.</p>
<p>SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns 12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities</p>	<p>Incorporation of sustainability considerations into procurement, in terms of advertisement and invitation to tender, contracts, and selection criteria for suppliers.</p>
<p>SDG 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</p>	<p>Plans in place to enhance positive contributions to addressing climate change through use of collections. Plans in place to ensure collections, collections institutions and broader society can adapt effectively to climate change.</p> <p>Plans in place for effective education and awareness raising on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.</p> <p>Plans in place to reduce negative contributions of collections-related functions, e.g. measuring greenhouse emissions with plans and targets in place to reduce them.</p>
<p>SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss 15.A Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems</p>	<p>Revenue generated to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.</p> <p>Direct financial support given to projects and organisations for conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems.</p>

<p>SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss 15.B Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation</p>	<p>Revenue generated to conserve and sustainably use forests, including conservation and reforestation, and that support local and Indigenous peoples.</p> <p>Direct financial support given to projects and organisations to conserve and sustainably use forests, including for conservation and reforestation, and that support local and Indigenous peoples.</p> <p>Other forms of support provided to projects and organisations to conserve and sustainably use forests, including for conservation and reforestation, and that support local and Indigenous peoples.</p>
<p>SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels</p>	<p>16.6.2 Proportion of the population [audience/users/non-users] satisfied with their last experience of public services Access to information, and accountability policies and mechanisms, in place.</p> <p>Effective institutional arrangements, both for own working and for working in partnership with other sectors, in place.</p> <p>Plans and arrangements in place for extraordinary circumstances such as natural and human-caused disasters.</p> <p>Effective arrangements in place to fulfil legal and social obligations and responsibilities.</p> <p>Effective arrangements in place for transparent communication and reporting of institutional performance.</p> <p>Effective arrangements in place for transparent decision-making and accountability.</p>
<p>SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. 16.10 Ensure public access</p>	<p>Adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information.</p> <p>Plans in place, and plans implemented to enhance public access to information relating to collections.</p> <p>Plans in place, and plans implemented to support</p>

<p>to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements</p>	<p>fundamental freedoms, in line with human rights, national and international agreements and legislation.</p> <p>Plans and procedures in place for public access to information relating to the operation and management of collections-based institutions.</p> <p>Complaint mechanism in place for public to use where public access to information and fundamental freedoms not supported or fulfilled.</p>				
<p>SDG 17. Partnerships for the goals 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources</p>	<p>Amount of financial support provided to support sustainable development initiatives in developing countries.</p>				
<p>SDG 17. Partnerships for the goals 17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries</p>	<p>Number and/or increase in number, and diversity of global and international multi-stakeholder partnerships that share collection-related knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to address the SDGs, or that otherwise involve collections-based organisations and institutions.</p> <p>Number and/or increase in number, and diversity of global and international multi-stakeholder partnerships involving developing countries that share collection-related knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to address the SDGs</p>				
<p>SDG 17. Partnerships for the goals 17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships</p>	<p><i>17.17.1 Amount of United States dollars committed to public-private and civil society partnerships</i></p> <p>Number and/or increase in number, and diversity of local, national and regional multi-stakeholder (public, public-private and civil society) partnerships that address the SDGs drawing on collections, or that otherwise involve collections-based organisations and institutions.</p>				
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7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	