# Article information:

Cutting nature to fit: Urbanization, neoliberalism and biodiversity offsetting in England - ScienceDirect  
<https://www-sciencedirect-com.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/science/article/pii/S0016718517301483>

# Article summary:

1. Biodiversity offsetting policy in England emerged in the context of neoliberalism and government aspirations for large-scale urban development projects.

2. Offsetting portrays urban development as the driver of environmental improvement, but it is widely contested by local communities.

3. The article suggests that struggles for the 'right to the city' should expand to embrace 'rights to nature', highlighting the potential for a new emancipatory politics.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article "Cutting nature to fit: Urbanization, neoliberalism and biodiversity offsetting in England" provides a Marxist historical-geographical analysis of biodiversity offsetting policy in England. The authors argue that the emergence of biodiversity offsetting is related to the UK government's aspirations for large-scale urban development projects and the neoliberal reconstruction of conservation. They suggest that offsetting enables a social and spatial reterritorialization of socionatures, portraying urban development as the driver of environmental improvement.

The authors highlight how offsetting operationalized new ideas about nature as a stock of biodiversity, streamlined planning to support extended urbanization, foreclosed public debate about controversial urban development projects, and reterritorialized nature-society relationships. They also give a central role to social contestation against the implementation of offsetting in England, drawing attention to its class character and highlighting the potential for a new emancipatory politics that would encompass a 'right to nature' as a key element of struggles for the 'right to the city'.

Overall, the article provides an insightful analysis of biodiversity offsetting policy in England. However, it is important to note that the authors have a clear bias towards Marxist theory and may overlook other perspectives on conservation and urban development. Additionally, while they highlight social contestation against offsetting in England, they do not explore counterarguments or potential benefits of this policy. The article could benefit from more balanced reporting and consideration of multiple perspectives.

# Topics for further research:

* Benefits of biodiversity offsetting policy in conservation and urban development
* Critiques of Marxist analysis of conservation and urban development
* Neoliberalism and its impact on conservation policies
* Public debate and participation in urban development projects
* Socionatures and their relationship to urbanization
* Right to nature and its role in environmental justice movements

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/7849fcfa528f949a53697ee710332f97>