

AGRICULTURE BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP PACKAGE (ABSP)

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WHAT IS ABSP?

- A program to build diversity, reward farmers, and trade biodiversity credits
- Currently operating through two pilot programs:
 1. Carbon and Biodiversity Pilot Scheme
 2. Enhancing Remnant Vegetation Pilot Scheme
- Farmers register an ‘environmental planting project’ with Emissions Reduction Fund
- Enter into an agreement with DAWE

Key benefit to farmers – they receive an up front payment – and have an Australian Carbon Credit Unit which may be sold

DOES THIS PRESENT
ANY PROBLEMS?

- Yes, quite big problems actually
- Problem of biodiversity measurement – that is a big problem because of its sheer complexity
- Also issue of data management



BIODIVERSITY CERTIFICATION

IP AUSTRALIA

- Must meet their requirements
- Part of the current Bill before parliament
- Key aspect of a biodiversity market

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

- Mapping farms to support online application
- Site assessment is made
- Management plan prepared

PRACTICAL ISSUES

- Scoring biodiversity condition between 0-100
- Eligibility – a score greater than 10
- Three standards – gold, green and provisional

PROCEDURE

- Calculation of biodiversity condition score
- Initial certification
- Biodiversity management plan



BIODIVERSITY TRADING PLATFORM

WHAT IT DOES

- Links biodiversity credits with buyer
- Educate farmers on commercial opportunities
- Efficient market transaction

KEY CHALLENGES

- Defining a tradeable property right
- Harmonizing metrics across jurisdictions
- Lower transactions cost

OTHER ISSUES

- Standardizing verification measurement and reporting
- Defining the role of government

SUCCESS FACTORS FOR CERTIFICATION SCHEMES



MANAGING
STAKEHOLDER
EXPECTATION



CLEAR
MONITORING
CAPABILITY



INTEROPERABILITY
WITH OTHER
SCHEMES



TRANSPARENT
ACCOUNTABLE
WITH
STAKEHOLDER
PARTICIPATION



SUCCESS FACTORS (2)

- Scheme able to communicate market signals
- Clearly flags total cost
- Generally accepted valuation methodology
- Able to deal with on farm management issues

An aerial photograph of a vast agricultural field, likely a wheat or grain field, with a winding path or furrow cutting through it. The field is a mix of green and golden-brown, suggesting different stages of growth or harvest. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. A semi-transparent dark green rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text "WHAT ARE MY RECOMMENDATIONS?".

WHAT ARE MY
RECOMMENDATIONS?



CRITERIA AND
INDICATORS OF
BIODIVERSITY AND
SUSTAINABILITY
(CRITERIA)

CRITERIA FOR BOTH

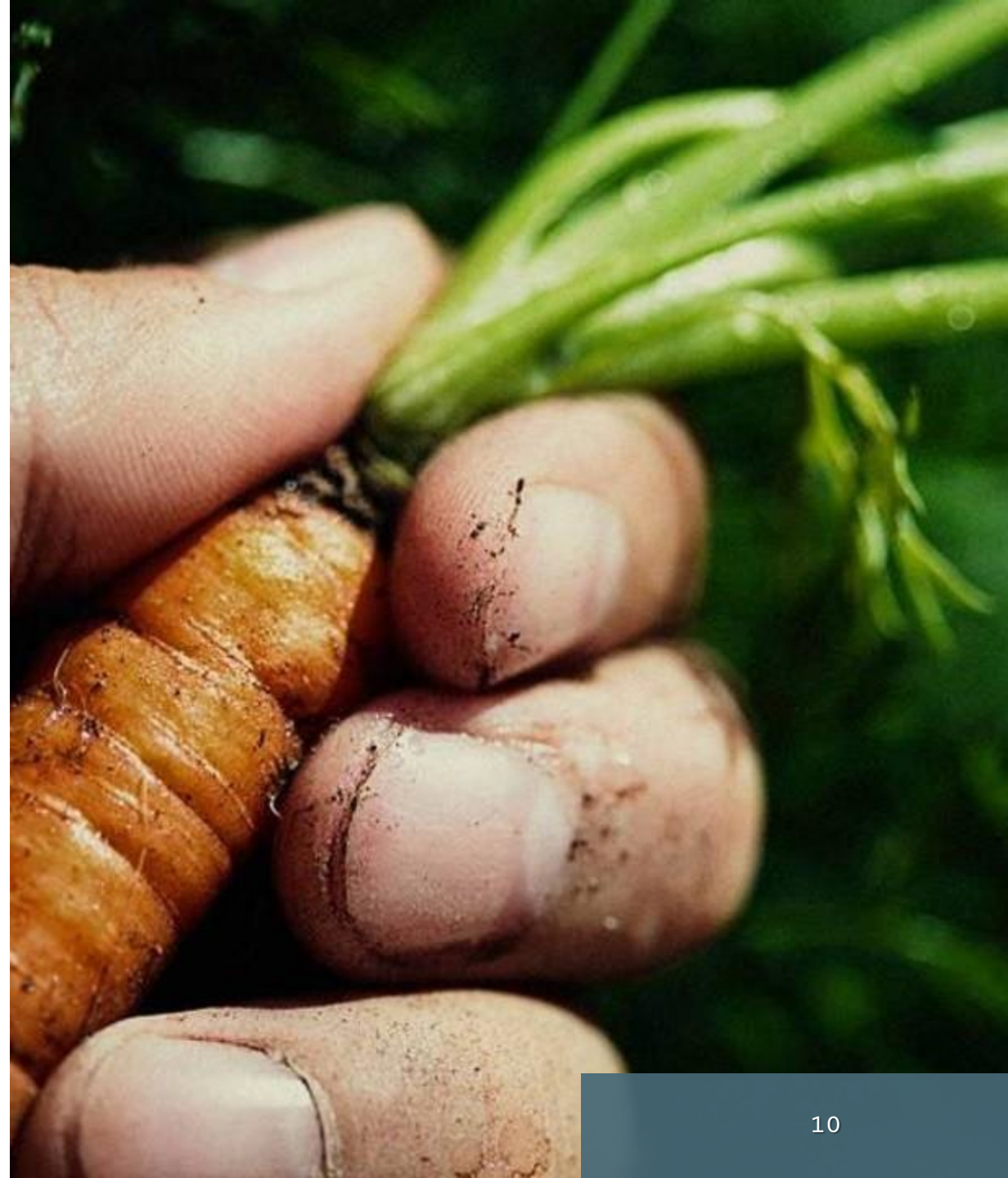
- Biodiversity and sustainability
- Not just biodiversity
- Gives stronger reporting efficacy
- May improve participation rates
- Clearer value proposition
- Stronger foundation for a national standardization for data collection

COMMERCIALIZING BIODIVERSITY

RECOGNISING VALUE FOR
NATURAL CAPITAL

DEFINING PURPOSE OF MARKET

- A REPORTING PROCESS USING CRITERIA AND INDICATORS
 - GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO PAYMENT MECHANISM
 - DEVELOPING A BIODIVERSITY META-STANDARD



DEALING WITH BIODIVERSITY MEASUREMENT

INTEGRATING
ECONOMIC
AND
ECOLOGICAL
DATA

OBTAINING
QUANTITATIVE
DATA FOR
DIFFERENT
LANDSCAPES

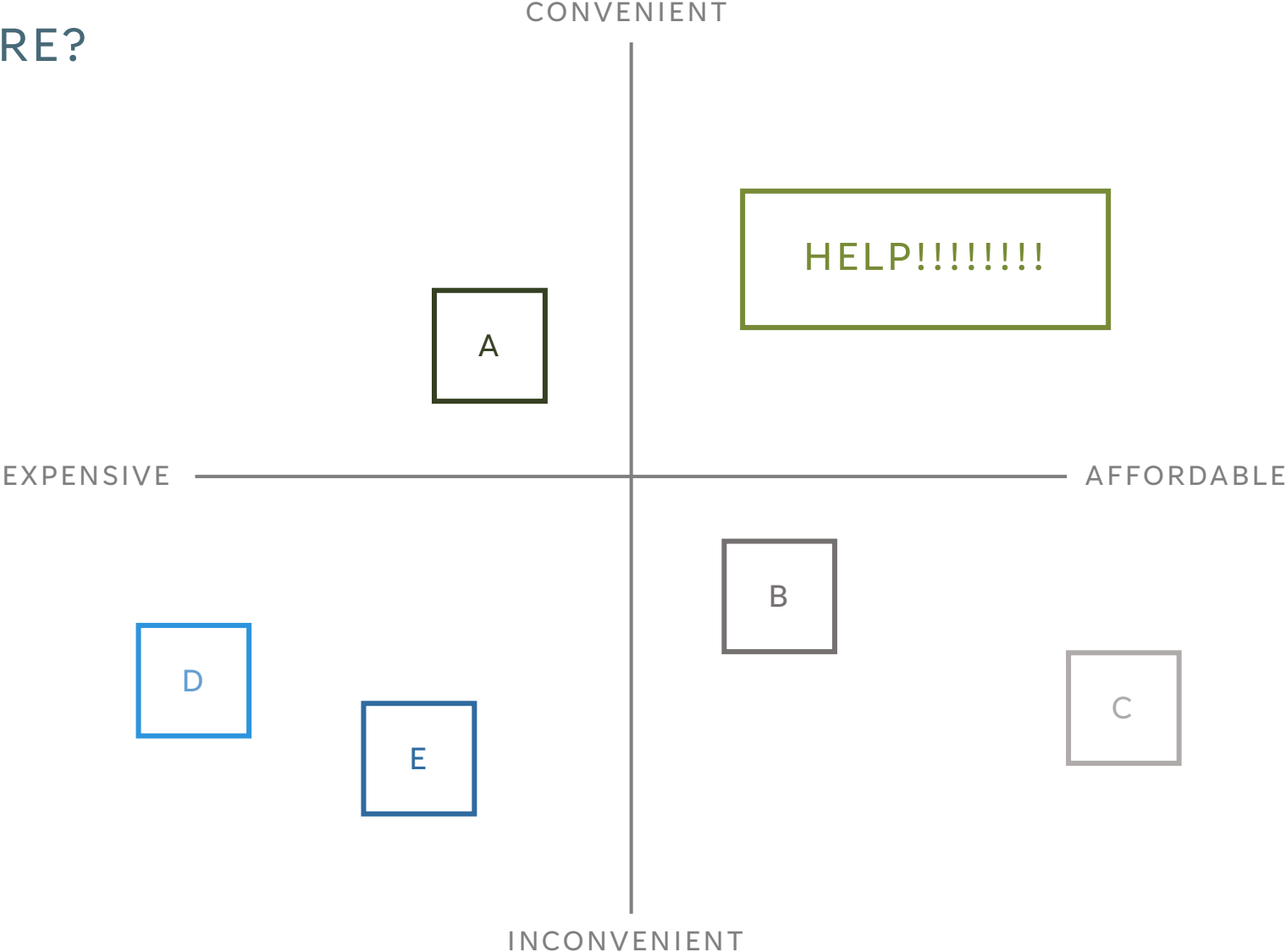
COMMON
MEASURING
METRIC



AIMS OF SUSTAINABILITY MEASUREMENT

- Aim is to monitor long term productivity of farm ecosystem for soil and water
- Help monitor and reduce impact of farm operations
- Adds to overall assessment of on-farm biodiversity development
- Adds to productivity including commercial use of ecosystem values
- Helps to develop a sustainability index

WHERE TO FROM HERE?



WHAT SHOULD REGULATION DO?

STANDARDIZATION

- Definitions and decision rules for:
 - ✓ Biodiversity measurement
 - ✓ Sustainability performance
 - ✓ Overall farm eco-efficiency



THE PROPOSED BILL

The Current bill

- Establishes a tradeable biodiversity certificate as personal property
 - A requirement to meet protocol specifications
 - Sets monitoring and record keeping requirements
- Establishes an online trading platform for biodiversity certificates
 - Application procedure
- Requirement for an audit report by registered green auditor
- Allows for Cth to purchase these certificates

Suggested improvements

- INCLUDE BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA AS A COMBINED CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
- HIGHER RECOGNITION OF FARMER INPUT
- PROTOCOLS BE SUBJECT TO REGULATED METHODOLOGIES
- USE OF CRITERIA AS INPUTS INTO DECISION MAKING
- EXPRESS GOVERNMENT BACKING OF VALUE OF CERTIFICATE

THANK YOU

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Call anytime!