

Safeguards Compliance Memorandum

Project Information

Project Name	Collaborative platform for African nature-based tourism enterprises, conservation areas and local communities – a response to COVID-19
GEF Focal Area	Biodiversity
Safeguards Categorization	C

Project Description

An African Nature-Based Tourism (NBT) Collaborative Platform is being developed to connect funders to the communities and small and medium enterprises most in need of funding support for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Using a bottom-up approach, the platform will gather data on impacts to communities and SMEs from the COVID-19 crisis, enhance knowledge sharing between relevant actors, facilitate the development of funding proposals from communities and SMEs, and make these available to relevant donors. Key facilitators in this process will be national CBNRM networks, RCMRD as a data clearinghouse, NGOs, donors, and WWF as platform host and project manager. Project focal geographies are Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The project entails three key components:

Component 1 - Data clearinghouse: With the facilitation of national CBNRM networks and NGOs, data will be gathered from local communities and SME's across the project area to better understand how COVID-19 has impacted them, and their resulting financial needs. The online platform will continuously process and house this data, and make it available to donors and other platform supporters. Data on prospective funding resources available to mitigate the impacts will also be available on the platform.

Component 2 - Facilitating links between funders, communities and SMEs: The key goal of the platform is to facilitate matchmaking between donors and beneficiary communities and SMEs, resulting in the growth and well targeted distribution of COVID-19 emergency relief funds, stimulus packages, and other financial support. With the facilitation of national CBNRM networks and NGOs, data collected in Component 1 will be used to connect communities and SMEs to appropriate donors, and assist with proposal development. Component 2 will also focus on improved integration of nature-based tourism in investment decisions by governments and financial institutions.

Component 3 - M&E and knowledge management: A monitoring and evaluation framework will track the impacts of COVID-19 on nature-based tourism, the efficacy of funds raised through the platform, and develop and disseminate knowledge products.

Project Location and Salient Physical Characteristics Relevant for the Safeguards Analysis

Not applicable.

Safeguards Standard	Triggered	Explanation
Natural Habitats	No	N/A
Indigenous People	No	N/A
Restriction of Access and Resettlement	No	N/A

Community Health, Safety and Security	No	N/A
Pest Management	No	N/A
Cultural Resources	No	N/A

Summary of Key Safeguards Issues

Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

This Project has been categorized by the WWF-GEF Agency as category "C" since it consists solely of low-risk activities and there are no environmental or social impacts envisaged under the project and it does not trigger any WWF's environment and social safeguards standards. The WWF-GEF Collaborative Platform Project will fund technical assistance activities such as research, capacity building, communication and outreach, socioeconomic assessments, policy reform, workshops and meetings, and information exchange.

Describe measures taken by the Project Team to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described:

Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people:

Monitoring and Compliance

Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to WWF-US? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Disclosure Requirements

Stakeholder Engagement Plan	
Date received by WWF-US	01/06/2021
Date Disclosed on WWF-US website	01/06/2021

Approvals

Erika Drazen, Safeguards Coordinator	DocuSigned by: <i>Erika Drazen</i>	Date: 2/22/2021
Brent Nordstrom, Safeguards Compliance Officer	DocuSigned by: <i>Brent Nordstrom</i>	Date: 2/22/2021

DD6030B6C7E2446...