

WWF Environmental and Social Safeguards Categorization Memorandum

Project Title: Conservation of Big Cats in the Russian Federation	Date: April 22, 2014															
<p>Project Location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis:</p> <p>The Project focuses on several key project areas located in the Russian Far East, Altai-Sayan and Northern Caucasus</p>	<p>Project Categorization (A,B,C): B</p>															
<p>Project Description:</p> <p>The Full-Sized GEF Project “Conservation of Big Cats in the Russian Federation” aims to fill multiple gaps in the Russia's base line programs and considerably improve conservation management of the key habitats and most important big cat populations in Russia through implementation of landscape and participatory approaches. The Project focuses on several key project areas located in the Russian Far East, Altai-Sayan and Northern Caucasus, those are absolutely critical for conservation of sustainable Amur Tiger, Far Eastern Leopard, Snow Leopard and Persian Leopard in Russia. To achieve sustainable management of the big cat habitats in these key areas the Project works at federal, regional and local levels with involvement of wide group of stakeholders, including government agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs), PAs, local and indigenous communities, and business companies. The Project objective is to ensure conservation of unique landscapes and ecosystems in the globally important ecoregions in Russia, while maintaining big cats as keystone species. The project will achieve this objective by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) mainstreaming big cat conservation issue into national and regional policies and economic development with a focus on the most crucial big cat landscapes; b) expanding of PA system, improving management of protected areas and livelihood of local communities in the habitats of big cats; c) developing international cooperation among Russia and neighboring countries for conservation of transboundary big cat populations and landscapes. 																
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<p>Summary of Key Safeguard Issues:</p> <p>The Project is classified as Category B, as the potential adverse effects are few, and site specific. The Project is expected to have an overall positive environmental impact by conserving and improving natural resource use. The Project will not support any large scale infrastructure development or major civil works within or at</p>																

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the periphery of the Protected Areas. Under the project, rehabilitation or development of small infrastructure such as visitor facilities, is envisaged.

Natural Habitat Project will help to conserve natural habitats, and ensure that specific project activities avoid habitat degradation.

Indigenous Peoples: The Project has triggered the Indigenous people's policy as the project activities and target area in the Northern Caucasus and Altai-Sayan include indigenous communities. In addition, in Amur region two of six project areas are inhabited by indigenous communities - Udege and Tazy.

Involuntary Resettlement. The project may entail restriction of access to the selected legally designated parks and conservation sites. Therefore, a Process Framework and a Resettlement Action Plan is recommended to be prepared, approved and disclosed before project design finalization.

Gender Mainstreaming:

The project impacts mainly activities in relation to herding and hunting which do not involve women however the project will give preference to women in alternative livelihoods activities and training activities under the project.


Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:

There would be no potential indirect or long-term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the Project area. Small infrastructure based activities are not expected to cause any potential indirect or long term impacts because appropriate institutional arrangements for environmental and social management would be put in place throughout Project implementation.

Required actions: (type of ESIA, ESMP, IPP, IPMP, RAP, consultations, disclosure)
Resettlement Policy Framework and
Process Framework

Safeguards Review Team members:

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4/22/15

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