



Environmental and Social Impact Screening & Categorization Results

Project Title: Sustainable Land Management in the Churia Range, Nepal

Project Location: Nepal

Project Classification: B (Partial Assessment)

Date: April 2, 2013

An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) initial screening was completed for the above referenced project. A copy of the completed screening is provided as an attachment to this document. Screening responses were based on the most current design and the anticipated impacts of the project. The ESIA initial screening outlines the institutional policies and technical guidance for environmental and social impact management for all proposed project activities. In particular, the ESI screening and assessment process is linked to the WWF Community Rights and Resources Policy and the WWF Statement of Principles on Indigenous Peoples and Conservation¹.

Upon review, the ESIA Review Team has classified the above referenced project as “Category B” to recognize the potential social impacts on local human populations resulting from specific proposed project activities. The environmental benefits of the proposed activities are expected to have positive effects on the region and its biodiversity. No negative impacts on the environment are anticipated. Furthermore, the potential impacts of on-the-ground project activities (e.g., mixed crop rotations, forest restoration, water conservation and containment practices, stall-feeding) will be minor in scale and significantly outweighed by expected positive environmental benefits typical of a category “B” project.

The potential social impacts are not anticipated to be substantial, but will occur in specific project sites affecting local communities and indigenous peoples. Access to forest areas and resources will be temporarily restricted during restoration activities, with long-term access in certain project areas being restricted through the implementation of community-based forest stewardship programs and forest management plans. In addition, some communities or indigenous groups may voluntarily move out of specific agro-pastoral areas as they implement improved and sustainable farming practices in vulnerable and degraded areas. Mitigation measures have been taken in the form of community outreach and stakeholder consultations. An impact assessment will be completed as part of WWF’s institutional safeguards. Any resulting recommendations for impact mitigation from the assessment will be incorporated as part of our final program design in the form of mitigation and action plans to address these areas of concern.

Project impact on the environment and local communities will be monitored during implementation using indicators that reflect the objectives and results of the project. Responsibility for the implementation of the mitigation and action plans resides with the project team and partners. Monitoring compliance is part of the WWF Program and Project Management Standards and will be an integral element of the responsibilities for each of the entities involved. Stakeholder consultation and participation will occur throughout project implementation to ensure continued collaboration with local communities and indigenous peoples affected by the project.

¹ WWF International 2008. Indigenous Peoples and Conservation: WWF Statement of Principles. Gland, Switzerland: WWF International http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/how_we_work/partnerships/indigenous_people