

Safeguards Compliance Memorandum

Project Information

Project Name	Improving mangrove conservation across the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape (ETPS) through coordinated regional and national strategy development and implementation.
GEF Focal Area	International Waters
Safeguards Categorization	C

Project Description

Project objective is to implement a comprehensive, multi-government ratified and regionally articulated mangrove conservation strategy in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape (ETPS) countries of Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Ecuador through on-the-ground management activities and the strengthening of national and local policies that inform ridge-to-reef development planning and practices relevant to mangrove conservation.

The proposed project has three principal components, namely,

Component 1 focuses upon regional mangrove strategy development and implementation. Under this component, the project would complete and support the implementation of a government-led regionally articulated mangrove strategy that promotes regional harmonization of national policy, technical and governance frameworks and support the creation of regional trans-boundary coordination mechanisms and implementation capacity across ETPS countries in favor of mangrove conservation. To complete this component, a technical working group on mangrove conservation will be formed and meetings and exchanges will be organized between policy thought leaders of each ETPS country (OFPS) to enable discussions on the regional policy and help update and implement a regional mangrove action plan.

Component 2 focuses on national mangrove plans and policy strengthening. [It would] support a "national mangrove policy assessment. For each ETPS country, methodology(-ies) and toolkit(s) to guide the implementation of economic valuation of mangrove ecosystem services will be developed and shared through participation in various fora.

Component 3 focuses on local conservation actions by ensuring that local policy and management plans are strengthened and consistent with national plans and the regional strategy in at least two local sites where field conservation measures are underway to reduce degradation and increase mangrove coverage through restoration efforts. A key activity under this plan will be to support the completion and management of local development plans as well as holding training events to build skills relating to field conservation measures and restoration of mangroves. Demonstration projects that provide incentives and/or that create business opportunities associated with the conservation and sustainable use of mangroves will also be initiated in at least two sites.

Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis

Under Component 3 of the project in the community territory of Bazán Bocana (BB). BB is within the Gulf of Tortugas region located on the north shore of the Bahia de Buenaventura.

Like most other Afro-Descendent communities in the region, the inhabitants of BB depend heavily on natural resources for subsistence. The titled area of BB is 10,000 ha that includes large areas of mangrove in varying states of conservation. A substantial portion of the community relies on fishing (shrimp and fish) both as subsistence and commercial activity and the collection of the *piangua* mollusk primarily for export to Ecuador where it is a preferred food.

Safeguards Policies	Triggered	Explanation
Natural Habitat	Yes	The project is expected to have positive environmental impacts through financing of demonstration project in Colombia. The project does not convert habitat but rather is focused on conservation and restoration of degraded mangrove habitat By supporting regional planning, national policy improvements and on-site mangrove conservation activities, the project is expected to help reduce mangrove deforestation trends, help recover degraded habitats and improve the long-term viability of critical ecosystem goods and services provided to coastal communities in the ETPS region.
Indigenous People	Yes	A social assessment was carried out to determine if there are any Indigenous people (as defined in WWF Indigenous Peoples network policy) present in the proposed area or if the Afro-Descendent (AD) population within the targeted Bazán Bocana community in Colombia. It was determined during the social assessment that there are no Amerindian (indigenous) communities or reserves directly involved in or affected by the activities proposed in this project. It was decided that the AD population is not indigenous in the usual use of the term, but is recognized as a distinct ethnic group in Colombian law under "Ley 70". It could be argued that Afro-Descendants, as a vulnerable ethnic group, fulfilling some of the definitional criteria for indigenous people, should be treated as an indigenous group. However, Afro-Descendants are not an autochthonous population that has occupied a territory since pre-colonial times. Afro-Descendants in Colombia have many of the protections envisaged in WWF's Indigenous Peoples Policy through long-standing national legislation and therefore it is not necessary or beneficial to prepare the equivalent of an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP). It is important to apply several of the principles of the WWF Indigenous Peoples Policy including consultations that satisfy

		the social organization of the group, FPIC and culturally appropriate solutions to issues that arise.
Involuntary Resettlement	No	The project will not cause physical relocation of persons or restriction of access to natural resources.
Pest Management	No	The project will not finance the use of pesticides nor are pesticides required for achievement of project objectives. All project supported mangrove restoration activities will be conducted using locally wild or cultivated seeds or seedlings. This follows natural restoration practice under the Colombian Reforestation Program PREM (Programa de Restauración Ecológico de Manglares).

Summary of Key Safeguards Issues

<p>Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:</p> <p>There are no potential large scale and/or significant impacts. If at any point a decision is taken to implement all or part of the project in communities other than Bazán-Bocana, an independent assessment should be carried to determine which WWF safeguard policies would be triggered and appropriate supplemental activities should be adopted.</p>
<p>Describe measures taken by the Project Team to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of Executing Agency capacity to plan and implement the measures described</p> <p>The Conservation International - ETPS regional office is the executing agency for the proposed GEF project does not have prior experience of implementing safeguards. However, the Project Management Unit which will be part of the CI – ETPS office will designate a social safeguards specialist based in Colombia (as part of the CI-Colombia project team) responsible for assuring that relevant WWF safeguard policies are applied while supporting project associates such as Corporación del Valle de Cauca (CVC) and local communities. Additional training as needed will be provided by the WWF GEF Agency.</p>
<p>Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.</p> <p>The relatively long history of work in the region and Bazán-Bocana itself mitigates the need for disclosure to the target community of plans for inclusion as a demonstration site under component 3. The Bazán-Bocana community is well aware of the methodology and goals of CVC in the area, both from the example of other nearby communities and from developments within the community itself. The activities proposed in the Prodoc are already underway in the community and have been approved by the <i>consejo comunitario</i>. It is clear that final decisions regarding local management and administration of resources are assumed by the <i>consejo comunitario</i> and empowered by the tenets of law 70 for titled Afro descendant lands</p>

as collective land holdings. It is noteworthy that community leaders are quite familiar with Law 70 and are able to cite specific sections of the law to explain their approach.

Gender Mainstreaming

Describe how the project has incorporated gender into the project design to ensure participation of both men and women.

National CI-offices working with partners have local experience to help ensure that the activities undertaken towards mangrove conservation are socially and culturally appropriate in the context of local communities interacting with the project and within national, local law and customs. Opportunities for capacity building and outreach will be designed to be inclusive for men, women, and age groups with active and equitable participation encouraged via facilitation and dissemination methods. The project staff has received training during the PPG phase in gender dimensions for projects by the CI gender specialist. This includes guidance on participatory methods such as same gender/ facilitator focus groups to encourage expression of minority groups not necessarily represented in all public or community fora. Gender dimensions will be considered in the Component 3 local work to ensure that social and economic benefits generated for the community for both men and women are culturally compatible, without adverse effects and respect their dignity and human rights. Gender dimensions are also part of the guidelines under development in the Component 1 regional mangrove strategy and will be considered where applicable in the Component 2 national policy component as the project develops. Gender disaggregated information is collected towards the monitoring and evaluation of relevant activities during the project.

Monitoring and Compliance

Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies? Yes No NA

Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost? Yes No NA

Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies? Yes No NA

Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the Project Executing Agency and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents? Yes No NA

Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to WWF-US? Yes No NA

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 No NA

Disclosure Requirements

Date received by WWF-US	N/A
Date Disclosed on WWF-US website	N/A
Date Disclosed on in country	N/A

Approvals

Anushika Karunaratne, Safeguards Coordinator	<i>A. H. Karunaratne</i>	Date 24 March 2016
David McCauley, Safeguards Compliance Officer	<i>David McCauley</i>	Date 24 March 2016

