

Safeguards Compliance Memorandum

Project Information

Project Name	Coral Reef Rescue: Resilient Coral Reefs, Resilient Communities
GEF Focal Area	International Waters
Safeguards Categorization	Low Risk, Category C

Project Description

The Coral Reef Rescue Partnership is a global initiative with governments, private sector, international NGOs, and civil society partners to sustain and restore the health of coral reef ecosystems in the face of climate threats. The Initiative is implemented by a partnership of organizations including Blue Ventures, Rare, CARE International, The University of Queensland, WCS, and WWF with extensive experience in delivering conservation in close collaboration with local communities. The Global Coral Reef Rescue Initiative (CRRI) underlying theory of change is that if the most resilient coral reefs that host 70% of the global regeneration potential within the coastal waters of the 7 countries can be identified, and if the main local threats to these priority reefs can be reduced to secure reefs in the face of climate change and community and commercial use, then a foundation for global reef maintenance and recovery can be provided for the long term.

The project objective is to build capacity and solutions for safeguarding globally significant climate resilient coral reefs, to ensure global long-term survival of coral reef ecosystems. The project will achieve this objective by creating global knowledge and capacity building networks to share, identify, and target solutions for Coral Reef conservation, and will create a global platform for near to real time monitoring of coral reefs, that will create and strengthen capacities in each of the 7 countries for coral reef assessment (Component 1).

The project will support countries to identify key threats to coral reefs and to build national strategies that provide a path towards solving those identified threats in each country. This will be achieved through a participatory process that will create national platforms and ensure effective participation from coral reef local communities (Component 2).

The project will also facilitate the alignment of the different co-finance opportunities to the priorities identified in the national strategies and will assist countries to mobilize additional public and private investments towards those identified priorities, including the development of an investment portfolio of sustainable business and long-term sustainable livelihood investments for local communities (Component 3).

The project has a strong component on knowledge management to ensure best practices and lessons learnt are captured, documented, applied during project execution and shared with the project stakeholders and broader conservation community (Component 4).

Project Location and Salient Physical Characteristics Relevant for the Safeguards Analysis

The project is a global technical assistance project, working on policy in seven countries. There are no project areas or on the ground impacts.

Safeguards Standard	Triggered	Explanation
Natural Habitats	No	
Indigenous People	No	
Restriction of Access and Resettlement	No	
Community Health, Safety and Security	No	
Pest Management	No	
Cultural Resources	No	

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:

There are no safeguard issues to note, as this project is a category C project. Special considerations is triggered as the Solomon Islands is a special considerations country, however, no mitigation measures are required for the project.

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: N/A

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

Project stakeholders include National Government Entities, NGO's, Indigenous Peoples and Local Community Organizations, Private Sector Stakeholders and Academic and Research Institutions. National or regional consultation workshops and meetings were held in each of the seven countries during the PIF and PPG phases the project to discuss project design and implementation arrangements.

The stakeholder engagement strategy is laid out in the project's SEP. Stakeholder engagement is a fundamental strategy of the project, enabled primarily by the National Hubs, which provide the space and mechanisms for meaningful engagement by local communities, private sector, development partners, non-governmental organizations, and governmental agencies across all four project components.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>

Disclosure Requirements

Stakeholder Engagement Plan, including the Grievance Redress Mechanism. A Gender Action Plan has also been created for the project.	
Date received by WWF-US	March 26, 2022
Date Disclosed on WWF-US website	March 26, 2022
<i>In Country Disclosure</i>	
Date Disclosed on University of Queensland International Development, UQID website	March 25, 2022

Approvals

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