

## WWF Environmental and Social Safeguards Categorization Memorandum

<b>Project Title: Improving Mangrove Conservation Across The Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape (ETPS)</b>	<b>Date: 1/12/2016</b>
<b>Project Location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis:</b> Eastern Tropical Pacific countries of Ecuador, Colombia, Panama and Costa Rica.	<b>Project Categorization (A,B,C):</b> <b>C</b>

**Project Description:**

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.”

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No
<b>Natural Habitats</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Pest Management</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>Indigenous Peoples</b>	<b>X</b>	

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<b>Involuntary Resettlement</b>		<b>X</b>	
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**Summary of Key Safeguard Issues:**

WWF safeguard policies are relevant to all three components. However, only Component 3, would involve actual interventions in local communities, thereby triggering safeguard policies.

**Natural Habitats:** The project is expected to have positive environmental impacts through financing of demonstration projects. 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.

**Pest Management:** 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).

**Indigenous People:** .A social assessment was carried out to determine if there are any Indigenous people (as defined in WWF policy) present in the proposed area or if the Afro-Descendent (AD) population within the **targeted Bazán Bocana** community in Colombia is considered under WWF’s Indigenous People policy. 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 IPP. It is important to apply several of the principles of the indigenous peoples policy including consultations that satisfy the social organization of the group, FPIC and culturally appropriate solutions to issues that arise

**Involuntary Resettlement:** the project will not cause physical relocation of persons or restriction of access to natural resources.

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

No adverse indirect and/or long term impacts are anticipated.

**Required actions:** (type of ESIA, ESMP, IPP, IPMP, RAP, consultations, disclosure).  
  
No further assessment or mitigation plan is necessary however, continuous safeguards monitoring and supervision will be conducted by Conservation International as the executing agency and reports will be furnished to WWF. WWF will review monitoring and supervision reports and may participate in field missions at its discretion. Any change in objective or methodology

**Safeguards Coordinator:**  
*A.H. Karmenatua*  
**Senior Director of Public Sector Support:**  
*[Signature]*

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will require prior review by WWF.	
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