

Annex 4. Environmental and Social Screening Procedure Summary

Name of Proposed Project: Transforming effectiveness of biodiversity conservation in priority Sumatran landscapes

A. Environmental and Social Screening Outcome

Select from the following:

- € Category 1. No further action is needed
- € Category 2. Further review and management is needed. There are possible environmental and social benefits, impacts, and/or risks associated with the project (or specific project component), but these are predominantly indirect or very long-term and so extremely difficult or impossible to directly identify and assess.
- X Category 3. Further review and management is needed, and it is possible to identify these with a reasonable degree of certainty. If Category 3, select one or more of the following sub-categories:
- X Category 3a: Impacts and risks are limited in scale and can be identified with a reasonable degree of certainty and can often be handled through application of standard best practice, but require some minimal or targeted further review and assessment to identify and evaluate whether there is a need for a full environmental and social assessment (in which case the project would move to Category 3b).
- € Category 3b: Impacts and risks may well be significant, and so full environmental and social assessment is required. In these cases, a scoping exercise will need to be conducted to identify the level and approach of assessment that is most appropriate.

B. Environmental and Social Issues (for projects requiring further environmental and social review and management)

In this section, you should list the key potential environmental and social issues raised by this project. This might include both environmental and social opportunities that could be seized on to strengthen the project, as well as risks that need to be managed. You should use the answers you provided in Table 4.1 as the basis for this summary, as well as any further review and management that is conducted.

The project aims to strengthen the management effectiveness and financial sustainability of priority protected areas within wider conservation landscapes in Sumatra in order to contain threats to their globally significant biodiversity through interventions at the national, provincial and site levels. The project will support capacity building for protected area management agencies at all levels, strengthen financial management for priority PAs, and support collaborative management of natural resources with communities living around the PAs in the priority conservation landscapes.

In line with the project's biodiversity conservation objectives, its environmental impacts are expected to be overwhelmingly positive. The project also aims to have an overall positive social impact through an inclusive and participatory approach towards the planning and implementation of project activities, described in the Stakeholder Involvement Plan section of the Project Document and CEO Endorsement Request. Specific measures that will proactively seek to achieve positive social impacts include capacity building for PA managers and staff for community outreach, and supporting the development of conservation agreements that define mechanisms for reducing anthropogenic pressures on protected areas and key biodiversity while establishing or strengthening mechanisms for securing sustainable livelihoods

for surrounding communities. The project will also support the realization of benefits for communities in the project landscapes using the REDD+ mechanism as well as other conservation financing mechanisms. These will follow international standards, such as the Climate Community and Biodiversity Standards (CCB)¹, and approaches, such as Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC), for working with communities. Despite the above-mentioned proactive measures, the following issues will need to be carefully considered during implementation. Further information for each site can be found in the landscape profiles in **Annex 1**.

1. Biodiversity and Natural Resources

1.2 Are any development activities proposed within a legally protected area (e.g. natural reserve, national park) for the protection or conservation of biodiversity?

Yes: the project will support a range of activities within the boundaries of existing protected areas, designed to improve management effectiveness, stakeholder participation, habitat restoration and sustainable livelihoods. This does not involve infrastructure development. Therefore both environmental and social impacts are envisaged to be overwhelmingly positive.

4. Social Equity and Equality

4.1 Would the proposed project have environmental and social impacts that could affect indigenous people or other vulnerable groups?

Possibly: the project will support strengthened conservation management in five protected areas, including improved patrolling and enforcement of land encroachment and other illegal activities. In areas where such illegal encroachment and resource use is an issue, existing tensions could be exacerbated with the related communities and private owners that are currently utilizing resources inside protected areas, or in areas along their boundaries where jurisdictions and land tenure are currently unclear or in dispute. On the other hand, forest protection activities, e.g. watershed forest, are designed to safeguard ecosystem services, which will maintain or increase socio-economic benefits locally, nationally and globally (eg carbon sequestration).

4.4 Will the proposed project have variable impacts on women and men, different ethnic groups, social classes?

Possibly: the project's interventions will be focused on communities that exist around the five protected areas and other communities in the targeted conservation landscapes. Objectives of community interventions are to reduce the threats to biodiversity within the protected areas and their buffer zones and associated habitat corridors from incompatible local activities (e.g. setting fires, trapping endangered species, draining peatlands) and to promote a participatory approach towards the management of protected areas. As such, the engagement of communities will be based on criteria such as the location of the communities in relation to protected areas and key biodiversity areas outside the protected areas, types of livelihood activities and their impacts on protected area management and key wildlife species. Given the different roles occupied by women and men within households and communities, the project may have variable impacts on different genders and socio-economic groups. The project's actions to control illegal poaching and wildlife trading activities are most likely to affect men, who are most involved in such activities.

8. Socio-Economics

¹ <http://www.climate-standards.org/ccb-standards/>

8.1 Is the proposed project likely to have impacts that could affect women’s and men’s ability to use, develop and protect natural resources and other natural capital assets?

Possibly: the project’s intervention at the five demonstration PAs aims to strengthen conservation management, which will clarify PA boundaries, increase protection levels and improve enforcement of illegal activities. These measures have potential to constrain the activities of any communities surrounding the PAs and other stakeholders that are using natural resources illegally inside the PAs. In the wider target landscapes outside the PAs, the project will work collaboratively with communities to enhance CBNRM, reduce and mitigate human-wildlife conflicts, and increase local benefits through innovative sustainable financing mechanisms such as REDD+, thus having a positive influence.

8.2 Is the proposed project likely to significantly affect land tenure arrangements and/ or traditional cultural ownership patterns?

Possibly: inconsistencies in the application of national land use policy occur, and weak coordination between land use related ministries at central, provincial and district levels of government mean that land ownership and tenure are still problematic. The lack of legally surveyed and clearly demarcated PA boundaries in some areas compounds this problem. In general, there are existing issues relating to land tenure and access to natural resources for a number of communities around the NPs, which the project will support the MoEF in resolving. Clarification of PA boundaries and legal land tenure arrangements could have some impacts on the traditional land tenure system. Outside PAs and through Village Forest, for example, the project will seek to secure land tenure rights for forest-edge communities.

9.1 Is the proposed project location subject to currently approved land use plans (e.g. roads, settlements) which could affect the environmental and social sustainability of the project?

Yes: the project involves five major protected areas within four large conservation landscapes, for which PA management plans will be elaborated and implemented, and planning for buffer zones and habitat corridors strengthened. These plans will seek to mainstream biodiversity conservation into local landscape management practices, including stronger environmental screening and mitigation of road network development, plantation development and zoning of other land uses. Three of the project sites – Kerinci Seblat, Gunung Leuser and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Parks – collectively constitute the UNESCO World Heritage Site *Tropical Rainforest World Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia)*, and two others (Berbak and Sembilang NPs) are Ramsar sites, therefore the national government has international obligations to meet in relation to land uses at these sites.

Specifically, a number of issues have been recognized as being contradictory to the biodiversity conservation goals of the WHC Site *Tropical Rainforest World Heritage of Sumatra*, resulting in it being listed on the **List of World Heritage in Danger** through Decision 35COM7B.16 of the World Heritage Committee in 2011 (see: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/322>). Following a State of Conservation report in early 2014, Draft Decision 38 COM 7A.28 of the World Heritage Committee (May 2014) recommends that the site be retained on the **List of World Heritage in Danger** <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/2932>. These include encroachment pressures, demand for building new roads and upgrading existing tracks with NPs, illegal gold-mining within KSNP, the new Aceh Spatial Plan which may impact forested landscapes adjacent to GLNP, and proposed geothermal energy development within BBSNP.

During project preparation, road development proposals were identified for the following sites:
Bukit Barisan Selatan NP: proposed improvement for three national roads that dissect the NP (in all there are 10 roads that dissect the NP).

Gunung Leuser NP: Gunung Leuser NP: There was a plan proposed in 2002 to improve the connectedness between towns in Aceh Province through a road megaproject called the Ladia-Galaska (Lautan Hindia-Gayo Alas-Selat Malaka), which would serious impact the ecological integrity of this forested landscape. After prolonged controversy, the road project was cancelled and replaced by two road constructions (north and south of Gunung Leuser NP) to connect isolated areas and promote economic growth. However, these proposed new roads have potential to result in habitat encroachment and illegal logging due to inadequate protection, by increasing access to the undisturbed protected area. The Babahrot – Terangon road (NW of the park) potentially increases the number of the access point to the park and threatens the connectivity of the Leuser – Ulu Masen forest block. The Gelombang – Kutacane road (SW of the park) is still ongoing. In addition, another road (Karo – Langkat) has been proposed by the Governor of North Sumatra. There is a claim (to be verified) that the MoEF has rejected the Karo-Langkat proposal.

Gunung Kerinci NP: Four road segments of approximately 100 km have been proposed by district governments of Jambi, Bengkulu, and West Sumatra provinces crossing two tiger source sites in KSNP. These would fragment key habitats within the NP.

Berbak NP: There is a road development proposal for Ujung Jabung, however it will not enter the National Park and the provincial government is undertaking an EIA. There is also a request from a local community to build a road from Labuan Pering to Sungai Benu, but this will not connect with Ujung Jabung.

Sembilang NP: there is a planned development for an international harbor at Tanjung Api-Api and Tanjung Carak (double track). While these are located outside Sembilang NP they may result in environmental impacts on the NP such as sedimentation, etc. An EIA is required.

Such issues related to land use and development plans may affect the environmental sustainability of the project.

C. Next Steps (for projects requiring further environmental and social review and management):

In this section, you should summarize actions that will be taken to deal with the above-listed issues. If your project has Category 2 or 3 components, then appropriate next steps will likely involve further environmental and social review and management, and the outcomes of this work should also be summarized here. Relevant guidance should be obtained from Section 7 for Category 2, and Section 8 for Category 3.

1. Biodiversity and Natural Resources

The project will have an overwhelmingly positive effect on the conservation and rehabilitation of natural habitats, including sustainable community-based forest management pilot activities in the buffer zones of the target PAs. Overall, the project will promote a participatory approach to PA management, particularly with regard to sustainable resource use by local communities. The effects of these activities will be carefully monitored through the project's M&E system (including habitat extent, status of key species, status of threats, as well as socio-economic indicators related to local communities), and the lessons learned will be evaluated and shared.

4. Social Equity and Equality

The project's Stakeholder Involvement Plan describes the principles and approach to be followed in working with stakeholders, especially local communities in the target landscapes, with proactive consideration of the involvement of women in project activities. Overall, the project will seek to ensure

the fair and equitable involvement of stakeholders, and proactively engage vulnerable social groups including women and ethnic minorities in its community participation activities through an inherently inclusive approach, where they occur in the target landscapes (see the landscape profiles in **Annex 1**). For sites implementing REDD+, Village Forest or Ecosystem Restoration Concession activities (Kerinci Seblat, Berbak-Sembilang and the Kampar landscapes) an FPIC process will be used to ensure meaningful community involvement in these project activities.

8. Socio-Economics

While PA management by nature may restrict access to the natural resources within PA boundaries (for protection purposes), the project will seek to establish or strengthen stakeholder participation mechanisms in order to achieve legally recognized, sustainable management of natural resources in buffer zones and to mitigate resource use conflicts as appropriate. Accordingly, the project aims to introduce a participatory approach to PA management that will involve awareness raising, environmental education, involvement in management activities, stakeholder representation in site committees, and support for sustainable livelihood activities in suitable locations. Overall, the project aims to engender support for PA management from local communities and other stakeholders (eg private sector), for which an inclusive and mutually beneficial approach is needed. In order to avoid negative impacts on local communities, the project will also ensure that stakeholders will be involved in the development of conservation agreements and other local area management plan development, and capacity will be developed within both genders for their implementation, thereby increasing women's and men's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources and capital assets.

In order to mitigate any potential negative impact on local communities business opportunities, robust mitigation plans for communities who may be adversely affected by project intervention actions will be included within the design of the individual community-based forest management schemes. They will include grievance mechanisms that are specific to the context of the target areas, based on the internationally recognised principles.

In the case of serious encroachment and illegal activities, it may be difficult to avoid conflict, but the goal will be fair and equitable settlements of such disputes. The project's capacity building programme will seek to strengthen the ability of national, subregional and local PA staff to respond effectively to such situations, minimizing conflict and seeking mutually acceptable solutions.

D. Sign Off

Project Manager

Date

PAC

Date

Programme Manager

Date