



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Decision on SECU Case. No. SECU0004

UNDP takes note of the compliance review that the Office of Audit and Investigations conducted on Case No. SECU0004 and wishes to thank the Social and Environmental Compliance Unit for its valuable analysis and recommendations which will be used to inform UNDP's approaches going forward.

The full observance of UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES) is a mandatory requirement for all parts of the organization – in all programmes, projects and partnerships. In my capacity as Administrator of UNDP, I take this requirement very seriously.

The purpose of SECU is to ensure accountability to those individuals and communities with whom we work. It is important that these voices are heard, and that UNDP has an opportunity to respond to issues that they have raised.

This report dated 15 August 2018 and published on 18 September 2018 has been thoroughly analysed by the Panama Country Office as well as the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (RBLAC). The report provides us with a rich source of information and learning about a number of interventions in this project and how, in view of the lessons learned, we might approach similar interventions in the future. This feedback can also, helpfully, inform our learning across the whole of UNDP about how to approach similar programmes.

Looking ahead, RBLAC, and the UNDP Country office in Panama, will put in place a series of follow up actions, which will be actively followed up on. This includes, for example:


- Continuing to review our current processes and procedures to ensure robust application of all screening procedures for future projects and programmes to ensure social or environmental risks are avoided or mitigated with the Social and Environmental Standards (SES);
- Ensuring robust applications of SES requirements in all UNDP activities – but specifically in the context of dialogue activities (a key focus of this report);
- Ensuring that when UNDP activities involve indigenous peoples, Stakeholder Engagement Plans and Indigenous People's Plans are developed in line with UNDP SES. Specifically, the Panama Country Office will prepare a robust stakeholder analysis that guides future UNDP engagements in activities that involve indigenous peoples;
- Developing a sensitization and training programme on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) for country office staff working in relevant programmes and projects;
- Actively looking to prevent any shortcomings in the application of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in the future.

Actions to implement the recommendations of the report will be formalized through a workplan prepared by the Panama Country Office and approved by the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean.



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

I would like to reiterate my strong personal commitment to ensuring that indigenous rights and sound environmental standards underpin all that we do. We have a responsibility to ensure accountability to those individuals and communities with whom we work, and that UNDP complies fully with its own Social and Environmental Standards. The work of SECU in ensuring that we remain on course through its compliance function is critical to helping us achieve this.


Achim Steiner
Administrator
4 February 2019