



v1.1 internally approved August 2019

Note: this Standard will be subject to public consultation in Q1 of 2021 and may be revised beforehand

Standard on Disclosure

Introduction

This Standard describes how to disclose information to and conduct meaningful consultations with relevant stakeholders - including affected groups, indigenous peoples, CSOs, and local authorities - concerning the landscape/seascape's environmental and social impacts.

“Disclosure of information” is defined as making relevant landscape/seascape documents and activity information available to the public in a manner that is accessible to stakeholders, whilst “public consultation” involves information exchanges with stakeholders with the objective to obtain public feedback on the analysis, design, implementation and monitoring/evaluation and/or other decisions related to WWF funded activities in a landscape or seascape.

Both disclosure of information and consultation are key steps of the broader Stakeholder Engagement process. For more details, please refer to the Guidance for and/or **Standard on Stakeholder Engagement**.

Requirements

1. Disclosure

The landscape/seascape lead will disclose information relevant to stakeholders and reveal not only general information about WWF funded activities (e.g. duration, scale, proposed activities), but also potential risks for communities and planned mitigation measures. The disclosure of information must occur in a reasonable timeframe to allow stakeholders to process this information and – if applicable – raise concerns. The form of disclosure must be targeted to the audience in the appropriate language and channels of communication and in a culturally appropriate, non-discriminatory and gender-sensitive manner, free of external manipulation, intimidation or coercion.

Below is the minimum list of safeguards documents that require disclosing:

- Safeguards Project Categorization Memo.
- Environmental and Social Management Plan, which includes related safeguards assessments and mitigation plans.
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
- Safeguards Compliance Memo.

The above documents will be disclosed for at least 30 days prior to a new activity's proposal being finalized—and if Indigenous People exist in the activity area, then for 45 days.

Since project-affected people may not have reasonable access to a WWF office or to the internet, the WWF is required to disclose the final safeguards documents in hardcopy in a culturally appropriate manner in specific locations accessible to affected communities translated into the local language. Only after all steps of the safeguards process are completed and verified, including all public consultations and all required disclosures, can the project be implemented.

2. Public Consultation

Public consultation is based on the prior disclosure and dissemination of relevant, transparent, objective, **meaningful** and easily accessible information in a timeframe that enables **meaningful** consultations with stakeholders in a culturally appropriate format, in relevant local language(s) and is

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understandable and accessible to diverse stakeholders. Where indigenous peoples are present and/or may be affected by the project, please refer to the Standard on Indigenous Peoples.

The landscape/seascape team will undertake a process of consultation in a manner that provides stakeholders with opportunities to express their views on project risks, impacts, and mitigation measures, and allows the landscape/seascape team to consider and respond to them. Consultation will be carried out on an ongoing basis as the nature of issues, impacts and opportunities evolves.

Consultation is a two-way process, that:

- Begins early in the activities planning process to gather initial views and to inform project design;
- Encourages stakeholder feedback, to inform activities design and foster engagement by stakeholders in the identification and mitigation of environmental and social risks and impacts;
- Continues on an ongoing basis, as risks and impacts arise;
- Considers and responds to feedback;
- Supports active and inclusive engagement with project-affected parties;
- Is free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, and intimidation; and
- Is documented.

For all High and Medium Risk activities, landscape/seascape teams formally consult (and document) relevant stakeholders at least four times:

1. during stakeholder analysis to identify most relevant stakeholders who will be affected by the activities,
2. during scoping and before the terms of reference for the impact or other assessments are finalized
3. once a draft assessment or ESMP is prepared, and
4. during monitoring and reviews.

For the initial consultation, the team provides a summary of the proposed project's objectives, description, and potential impacts. For consultation after the draft Environmental and Social Impact Analysis (ESIA) report is prepared, the landscape/seascape team provides a non-technical summary of the report's findings. The summaries should be provided in advance of consultation and proactively disseminated to local stakeholders in a form and language meaningful to those being consulted.

Following the public consultation on the draft ESIA, the landscape/seascape team supplements the ESIA by adding details of the public consultation process, as necessary, including the team's responses to concerns raised by the various stakeholders and details of measures taken to incorporate these concerns into project design and implementation. These will be publicly provided on the Safeguards Resource page (see section on Public Disclosure for links).