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

Standard on Community Stakeholder Engagement

Introduction

This Standard aims to strengthen WWF's engagement with local communities including Indigenous Peoples who may be impacted by our work, as required in WWF's Social Policies, Project and Program Standards (PPMS), and in WWF's commitment to international instruments such as the UN Declaration on Indigenous People (UNDRIP).

Stakeholder engagement is an inclusive process to support the development of strong, constructive and responsive relationships which encourage positive outcomes for both stakeholders and conservation, and that help to identify and manage risks. Stakeholder engagement is most effective when initiated at the earliest stage in defining an activity. Engagement strategies included disclosure of information, consultation and equitable participation of the most vulnerable. (Please see the Standard on Disclosure for more details on disclosure and consultation activities). The intensity and scale of engagement will vary with the type of activities, socio-political complexities, and potential risks and impacts.

Requirements

The WWF team will engage with stakeholders based on the following principles:

- Stakeholder identification and engagement begins as early as possible in the design of activities. It aims to identify and analyse the socio-political-economic situation of project-affected people, and local organizations which represent them. This includes analysis of rights, claims and relations of differing stakeholders, and initial stakeholder views on conservation aims, which help to inform the early design of activities.
- Engagement is carried out on a continuous basis, and as new environmental or social risks and impacts may arise.
- Engagement is carried out in a culturally sensitive, non-discriminatory and inclusive manner.
- Engagement actions are targeted to the audience, taking into account the different access and communications needs of various groups and individuals, especially those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged.
- For projects that may affect the rights, interests, lands, resources and territories of Indigenous Peoples, their Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) is ensured. (See Standard on Indigenous Peoples).
- Consultations are based on the prior disclosure and dissemination of relevant, objective, meaningful and easily accessible information in a timeframe that enables consultations with stakeholders in a culturally appropriate format; must be carried out in a non-discriminatory and gender-responsive manner, free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation. (See Standard on Disclosure).
- Stakeholder feedback is encouraged and responded to.

During project design, the WWF team will develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) in consultation with relevant stakeholders as part of programme design and disclosed, according to the following steps:

- Identify Project-Affected People - those likely to be affected by the project because of the actual impacts or potential risks to their physical environment, health, security, well-being or livelihoods, and who, because of their circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable. Based on this, the landscape/seascape Team will further identify individuals or groups (for example minorities inside communities) who may have different concerns or priorities about

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project impacts, mitigation mechanisms, and benefits, and who may require different or separate forms of engagement.

- In consultation with those stakeholders, develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) which is proportionate to the nature and scale of the activities and potential risks and impacts, and addresses the concerns expressed by stakeholders.
- Disclose a draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan to seek the views of interested parties (see Standard on Disclosure).
- Finalize the SEP based on the views and feedback, and then disclosed. The SEP is part of a broader Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). (See Standard on Environmental and Social Risk Management).

During project implementation, the WWF landscape/seascape Team will execute the SEP as follows:

- Continue to engage with and provide information to all stakeholders, including Project-Affected Peoples on the potential environmental and social risks and impacts of the project.
- Communicate significant changes to the project that will result in additional risks and impacts to Project-Affected People. WWF will provide information on such risks and impacts and consult with Project-Affected People as to how these risks and impacts can be mitigated.
- Respond to concerns and grievances from Project-Affected People in a timely manner and in line with the Standard on Accountability and Grievance Mechanism.

All stakeholder engagement - e.g., meetings, workshops, etc. - must be well documented, with aims, key outcomes, concerns raised, agreements, as well as time, date, place and attendance.

The landscape/seascape Lead is responsible for the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and will designate specific personnel to be responsible for the implementation and monitoring of stakeholder engagement activities.