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

Standard on Restriction of Access and Resettlement

Introduction

WWF Network is committed to ensure that:

- Adverse social or economic impacts on resource-dependent local communities resulting from conservation-related restrictions on resource access and/or use are avoided or minimized;
- Resolution of conflicts between conservation objectives and local livelihoods is sought primarily through voluntary agreements, including benefits commensurate with any losses incurred; and
- Involuntary resettlement is avoided.

WWF activities which may involve access restrictions of local communities are guided by WWF Network's Guidelines [Prevention of Restriction of Rights and Involuntary Relocation and Resettlement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities](#). These recommend measures to avoid involuntary resettlement and involuntary restriction of access and help ensure that project-affected people improve or at least restore their standard of living as a consequence of WWF-funded activities.

Requirements

1. Consultations

All activities requiring restriction of access of people are required to actively engage and consult with affected communities and assure the free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples.

In the context of possible restriction actions, WWF will design, document, and disclose a participatory process before the project design is finalized, which will include: (a) preparing and implementing WWF activities, (b) establishing eligibility for mitigation measures, (c) agreeing on mitigation measures that help improve or restore livelihoods in a manner that maintains the sustainability of the landscape or seascape, (d) resolving conflicts, and (e) monitoring implementation.

2. Mitigation Measures

WWF does not support, nor fund and will oppose any involuntary resettlement in landscapes where we have project activities. If activities involve potential involuntary restriction of access to legally designated protected areas, or other conservation areas, the nature of the restrictions, as well as measures to mitigate adverse impacts of the restrictions, are determined with the participation of the affected persons during the design and implementation of the activities. In these instances, as part of a broader Environmental and Social Management Plan, an Access Restriction Plan is prepared and should include:

- Specific components of the project to be prepared and implemented to mitigate impacts;

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- Criteria for eligibility of affected persons to receive compensation benefits and development assistance;
- Measures to assist affected persons to improve or at least restore their livelihoods, in real terms, while maintaining the sustainability of the protected area;
- Process to address potential conflicts involving affected persons; and
- A description of arrangements for implementing and monitoring.

3. Additional measures for Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Resources

In addition to the above standard, the WWF Network's [Policy on Indigenous Peoples](#) recognizes the right of indigenous peoples not to be removed from the territories they occupy, and adopts FPIC as the standard for consultations regarding interventions affecting indigenous territories and resource rights, including for situations in which resettlement is considered necessary as an exceptional measure. Related to the Standard on Cultural Resources, cultural groups such as traditional pastoralists, nomadic and tribal peoples not officially recognised as Indigenous Peoples but whose lifestyles are inextricably linked to nature should also be given special considerations.

4. Disclosure

Access Restriction Plans are included in a broader Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), all of which must be disclosed in a place and language accessible to key stakeholders, including project-affected groups and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), for at least 30 days (or if Indigenous Peoples are impacted, then for 45 days) before the project design is finalized. During this time, WWF should address concerns raised by project-affected groups.