



**ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS**

**STANDARD ON  
RESTRICTION OF ACCESS  
AND RESETTLEMENT**

### Introduction

This Standard sets out the requirements and procedures applicable to activities in WWF operational landscapes/seascapes (hereafter 'landscapes') in relation to access restriction and resettlement.

WWF is committed to ensuring that any adverse impacts on resource-dependent local communities that result from conservation-related restrictions are avoided or minimized. Resolution of conflicts between conservation objectives and local livelihoods will be sought through voluntary agreements acceptable to all parties.

WWF will not support - and will oppose - involuntary resettlement<sup>1</sup>. WWF does not permit funding of involuntary resettlement. WWF will only engage in voluntary resettlement where there is assurance of free, prior, informed consent for Indigenous Peoples (i.e. when there is a negotiated relocation from settlements in protected areas).

### Requirements

#### 1. Consultations

All activities resulting in restriction of access of people require active [engagement and consultation](#) 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 activity 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

As outlined in the [Exclusion List](#), WWF will not support, and will oppose involuntary resettlement. Where the need for access restrictions is required, but opposed by other parties, WWF commits to working with all parties in order to find an agreement suitable for all (via mitigation measures, as detailed below).

In these instances, either as part of the environmental and social mitigation framework (ESMF) for the landscape or for complex situations, via a dedicated plan, measures around access restriction are prepared and should include:

- Specific components of the activities to be prepared and implemented to mitigate impacts;
- Criteria for eligibility of affected persons to receive compensation benefits and development assistance;

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<sup>1</sup> [See Exclusion List](#)

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- Measures to assist affected persons to improve or at least restore their livelihoods, in real terms, while maintaining the sustainability of the protected area;
- A 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

The [WWF Standard on Indigenous Peoples](#) sets out the requirements and procedures applicable to activities in WWF landscapes that affect Indigenous Peoples and assures FPIC for those activities affecting Indigenous Peoples or their lands, territories and resources, including for situations in which resettlement is considered necessary as an exceptional measure.

Related to the [WWF Standard on Cultural Resources](#), where risk screening identifies potential access restrictions to the cultural resources of peoples who are not officially recognised as Indigenous, but who are socially and culturally distinct and having customary practices that are inextricably linked to nature, the principles of FPIC will be extended to them.

### 4. Disclosure

Access restriction measures are included in the landscape level ESMF or for complex situations, via a dedicated plan, all of which must be disclosed in a place and language accessible to key stakeholders, including affected groups and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), for at least 30 days (or if Indigenous Peoples are impacted, then for 45 days) before the activity design is finalized. During this time, WWF should address concerns raised by affected groups.