



ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL FRAMEWORK

ESS6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES

CONTEXT

In August 2016, the World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors approved the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), which will go into effect in 2018 and progressively replace the Bank’s Safeguards. The ESF protects people and the environment from potential adverse impacts that could arise from Bank-financed projects, and promotes sustainable development. Within the ESF, ten Environmental and Social Standards set out responsibilities for Borrowers. The Standards are designed to help Borrowers manage project risks and impacts as well as improve environmental and social performance, consistent with good international practice and national and international obligations.

Overview

Protecting and conserving biodiversity and sustainably managing living natural resources are fundamental to sustainable development. Biodiversity often underpins ecosystem services valued by humans. This standard recognizes the importance of maintaining core ecological functions of habitats, including forests, and the biodiversity they support. It also recognizes the need to consider the livelihood of project-affected parties, including Indigenous Peoples, whose access to, or use of, biodiversity or living natural resources may be affected by a project.

Objectives

The Environmental and Social Standard on Biodiversity Conservation & Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources (ESS6) requires Borrowers to:

- Protect and conserve biodiversity and habitats
- Apply the mitigation hierarchy and the precautionary approach in the design and implementation of projects that could have an impact on biodiversity
- Support livelihoods of local communities, including Indigenous Peoples, and inclusive economic development, through the adoption of practices that integrate conservation needs and development priorities

Highlights

ESS6 addresses different types of habitats: modified habitat, natural habitat and critical habitat.

It includes requirements for legally protected, designated or regionally/internationally recognized areas of high biodiversity value. It includes also provisions on invasive alien species and requirements on animal husbandry and large-scale commercial farming.

ESS6 contains requirements relating to primary suppliers, where a project involves purchasing natural resource commodities, including food, timber and fiber.

ESS6 promotes sustainable management of living natural resources, including primary production and harvesting.

More information

The full text of the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) is available at www.worldbank.org/esf

For more information, contact Lucie Blyth at lblyth1@worldbankgroup.org