

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET

CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC3378

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I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Colombia	Project ID:	P144271
Project Name:	Forest Conservation and Sustainability in the Heart of the Colombian Amazon (P144271)		
Task Team Leader:	Adriana Goncalves Moreira		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	25-Nov-2013	Estimated Board Date:	27-Mar-2014
Managing Unit:	LCSEN	Lending Instrument:	Investment Project Financing
GEF Focal Area:	Biodiversity		
Sector(s):	Forestry (74%), Central government administration (13%), Sub-national government administration (13%)		
Theme(s):	Biodiversity (54%), Environmental policies and institutions (23%), Participation and civic engagement (14%), Land administration and management (9%)		
Financing (In USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	40.04	Total Bank Financing:	0.00
Total Cofinancing:		Financing Gap:	0.00
Financing Source			Amount
BORROWER/RECIPIENT			30.00
Global Environment Facility (GEF)			10.04
Total			40.04
Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

B. Project Objectives

The project's global environmental objective (GEO) is the same as the project's development objective (PDO), namely, to improve governance and promote sustainable land use activities in order to reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity in the Colombian Amazon forests.

C. Project Description

As a matter of national policy, Colombia has for several decades been constructing an extensive system of protected areas and indigenous reserves in the Amazon, which have proved effective in preventing further deforestation. The proposed project is an integral part of this commitment, designed to consolidate and sustainably manage the Protected Areas system in the heart of the Colombian Amazon, whose core is the Chiribiquete National Park. If successful, the project will avoid millions of tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year, preserve a biological corridor between the Andes and the Amazon, promote sustainable development and improve the livelihoods of local communities and indigenous peoples in the region.

In the last ten years, the areas surrounding the Chiribiquete National Park have experienced a sharp increase of interest in oil and gas exploration. The National Hydrocarbons Agency (ANH) has designated extensive areas as reserved exploration blocks for future lease of oil and gas exploration. The area is also a target for the development of road infrastructure, with Colombia's commitment to build the Marginal de la Selva road to unite Ecuador with Venezuela placing increased pressure on the area and causing greater harm to the forest.

The proposed project would consist of four components, to help alleviate the above mentioned pressures:

Component 1 -Protected Areas. This component will seek to (i) improve management effectiveness in new and existing PAs and (ii) increase funding to meet total expenditures required for management.

Component 2 - Improved forest governance, management, and monitoring. This component will seek to (i) increase institutional capacity of national, regional and local environmental authorities, as well as of indigenous authorities, including financial sustainability, for sustainable landscape management, monitoring and enforcement of the Amazon forest frontier, (ii) enhance institutional capacity to account for GHG emission reductions in alignment with the National Forest and Carbon monitoring system, (iv) reduce deforestation in the project area compared to the Amazon subnational reference forest emission level for Colombia, and (v) guarantee conservation of at least 95% of the carbon stock by the lifetime of the project of (1,164 M tons of Co₂ eq) of Chiribiquete National Park barring natural disturbances.

Component 3 – Sectoral programs for sustainability and land management. This component will seek to (i) improve cross-sectoral coordination and policy coherence in critical sectors to achieve long term reductions in deforestation (e.g. cattle ranching, agriculture, mining and forestry), (ii) adopt sectoral programs in critical sectors (e.g. cattle ranching, agriculture, mining and forestry) improve practices that reduce pressures on forests and biodiversity, restore ecosystems and reduce GHG emissions while improving livelihoods, (iii) develop and implement land management practices developed and implemented for restoration and to control main drivers of deforestation in identified priority areas, and (iv) benefit local population from sectoral programs by improvements in their livelihoods.

Component 4 - Monitoring and evaluation. The component will seek to improve monitoring of management effectiveness of protected areas, institutional strengthening, and non-carbon benefits of land management practices and sectoral programs.

The proposed project is consistent with the GEF focal areas of Biodiversity (BD), Climate Change Mitigation (CCM), and Sustainable Forest Management/REDD+ (SFM). Consistent with the “GEF 5 Focal Area Strategies” document, synergies of BD, CCM and SFM are explored to generate multiple global environmental benefits, as well as social and economic ones. The proposed project will include gender specific activities and mechanisms to monitor gender related impacts.

D. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

This project will be implemented in the Colombian Amazon, which includes the entire Amazon Forest Reserve Area and the Chiribiquete Land Use Planning Area. This is an extremely remote region with many areas that have not been fully explored. There are approximately 55,000 indigenous peoples that live in more than 200 legally titled resguardos. In addition, there may also be un-contacted indigenous peoples or those living in voluntary isolation that will require special protection measures.

PAs are not isolated in landscapes and the land-use planning of large conservation spaces is becoming a priority in Colombia. The Colombian Amazonia is the leading case to demonstrate how PAs conservation can track other large scale management regime involving the territory beyond the PAs boundaries. Although the rate of deforestation in Colombia is much lower than in adjacent countries, about 22,260 km² of Amazon rainforest has been lost from 1990 to 2010, at rates between 80,000 and 120,000 hectares per year. Most of these areas have been converted to pasture for livestock. Between 2005 and 2010, deforestation in Colombia generated 12.75 million tons of CO₂ per year. Preliminary projections indicate that by 2030, if current trends continue, an additional 13,000 km² of rainforest will be lost in the Colombian Amazon, completely losing the connectivity between the Andean and Amazonian forests in the country. Deforestation in the Colombian Amazon has several causes. The main driver is extensive cattle ranching, followed by rural migration of peasants fleeing from conflict areas. In addition, the projected expansion of oil and mineral exploitation and construction of road projects in the Amazon, will lead to the development of other infrastructure, rapid population growth and thus increased negative pressures on the forest.

The situation is further complicated due to lack of land use planning, land titling and zoning of the Amazon Forest Reserve. Due to its remoteness and the historical lack of a strong governmental presence, the Amazon Forest Reserve in particular has had limited land use planning, land titling and zoning. This uncertainty has made it vulnerable to illegal activities and incursions by migrants from conflict zones as well as economic migrants from other parts of the country.

E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

The Borrower has institutional capacity and a proven track record in implementing the Bank’s environmental and social safeguard policies. However, the Implementing Agency, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS), will need to increase their project execution capacity in the area of safeguards. After the separation into the two new ministries, MADS retained the staff responsible for execution of Bank projects. This staff has experience with Bank procedures and policies, including environmental and social safeguards. Parques Nacionales, the other implementing partner, has important experience with another Bank-financed project, GEF Mosaics, as well as other GEF projects implemented by different international agencies. The institutional capacity to implement Bank safeguards for this specific project will be assessed during the preparation phase of the grant. Given the complexity of this project and the risks associated with working in a remote region, support will be provided to all actors involved in the future implementation of the project.

In terms of natural habitats formal conservation and management, Colombia has been constructing an extensive system of Protected Areas (18 National Parks and Natural Reserves encompassing 7.9 million hectares) and Indigenous Reserves (189 in total with 25.6 million hectares) in the Amazon. The passage of Act 2 of 1959, declared the vast majority of the Colombian Amazon forest an Amazon Forest Reserve Area, providing a basic degree of protection for seven forest reserve zones. However, it is necessary to create more stringent land protection categories in the region. The consolidation of Colombia's Protected Areas is considered a priority in a number of environmental policies in Colombia. The 1996 Colombian National Policy on Biodiversity set the stage for conservation, knowledge, and sustainable use of biodiversity through in-situ conservations. In 1997, the Government of Colombia adopted the Policy for the Creation and Consolidation of a Protected Areas System. Furthermore, the Government of Colombia's National Development Plan 2003-2006 defined the need to consolidate a National Protected Areas System in areas of high biodiversity and strengthen the National Natural Parks Authority. These national commitments are also reflected in the National Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). More recently, Colombia's Ministry of Environment released a manual for a national biodiversity offset scheme, which establishes clear procedures for identifying and quantifying measures for offsets in terms of biodiversity loss. The aim is to help the Government and the private sector create parallel measures for how each site affected by biodiversity loss should be compensated; ensuring that impacts of large infrastructure projects on the environment will be mitigated and compensated appropriately for any loss of biodiversity. Overall, this project will tend to strengthen the country capacity for natural habitats management.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Abdelaziz Lagnaoui (LCSEN)

Kristyna Bishop (LCSSO)

Marcelo Hector Acerbi (LCSEN)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/ BP 4.01	Yes	<p>This is a category "B" operation. The proposed investments seek to protect critical natural habitat through significantly expanding an existing protected area and supporting governance (institutions, zoning, action plans, dialogue and policies) for the entire area. While the project will not finance civil works or other activities with a physical footprint, the activities of protected areas management, land use planning and forest management have many important social and environmental implications.</p> <p>The project is designed to generate positive environmental impacts through protection of critical natural habitats and improved land-use planning. Nevertheless, the expansion of the protected area as well as activities in the buffer-</p>

		<p>zone through improved enforcement, changes in land-use provisions, and promotion of financial mechanisms linked to PES and REDD could be sensitive from a social standpoint.</p> <p>The project preparation will include the development of an environmental and social management framework (ESMF) that will describe in detail the process and criteria to establish the expanded protected area, land-use plans in buffer-zones, development of enforcement capacity, and establishment of offset programs. The ESMF will also analyze gaps in existing systems, best practices in different sectors and how can sustainability practices be improved.</p> <p>The ESMF will also address any livelihood activities to be supported through the GEF or counterpart funded activities when they go beyond activities included within the Process Framework for restrictions in access. The ESMF will also incorporate robust consultation processes with private sector, ranchers, and indigenous communities among others. During preparation the project will seek consistency and coordinate with the activities surrounding the FCPF/REDD+ process in Colombia presently supported by the Bank.</p>
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	<p>This policy is triggered given that the decisions made in terms of land management planning will affect critical natural habitats. Policy, land-use and enforcement activities could accelerate deforestation processes if not approached correctly with proper social engagement and consultation. The ESMF will include a description of the process to engage with the different stakeholders during the project to avoid or minimize any conversion or degradation that may result from human activity induced by the project.</p>
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	<p>This policy is triggered given that the decisions made in terms of land management planning including forest management plans will affect forests. The ESMF will include the process for development of sustainable management plans and other forestry-related policies or enforcement activities. The ESMF will also review the MOFOR regulations in light of the</p>

		Bank policy requirements for sustainable forest management.
Pest Management OP 4.09	TBD	Livelihood activities might include sustainable agriculture or reforestation activities that may require pest management. This will be confirmed during preparation. If this is the case, the policy will be triggered and the necessary provisions to meet policy objectives will be incorporated in the ESMF.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	This policy is triggered as the project will support changes in the acceptable use and access to areas with potential cultural significance (sacred sites) for communities living within and around the protected areas and management zones. The principles of this Policy will be fully integrated into the planning processes described in the ESMF.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	Yes	This policy is triggered as Indigenous peoples with the four characteristics outlined in the Policy live within the project area and could potentially be affected both positively and negatively from project activities. The Project will address the distinct interests and concerns of Indigenous peoples living within and outside of collective territories (resguardos) as well as Indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation. A social assessment and process of free, prior and informed consultation with indigenous peoples (with the exception of those living in voluntary isolation) will be carried out during project preparation. Once the Bank team has further information on the processes already carried out by the government with Indigenous peoples, a final decision will be made regarding the most appropriate instrument and its scope (IPP or IPPF) that will be developed during preparation. The project will in no way affect or change the collective territorial rights of Indigenous peoples or alter their rights or access to the natural resources within those territories.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	This policy is triggered as the project's activities imply both the enforcement of existing and the introduction of new restrictions of access to protected areas. A process framework will be prepared that describes the process for identifying affected communities, assessing the

		impacts of the restrictions in access and the participatory processes that will be carried out to define and support alternative livelihoods and practices to compensate or mitigate these impacts. The process framework will include specific indicators and mechanisms to monitor impacts and benefits on communities affected from restrictions in access. Any mitigation measures or support for alternative livelihoods found to be necessary will be financed under Component 2. This will be confirmed during project preparation.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	This project will not finance any dams nor will rely on the operations of existing dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	This project will not finance activities that impact any international waterways as defined by the policy.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	This project will not finance activities in disputed areas as defined by the policy.

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS: 30-Dec-2013

B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed.

The specific studies and their timing¹ should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS:

Safeguard related studies would be ready in draft by the Project's quality enhancement review.

IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader:	Name: Adriana Goncalves Moreira	
<i>Approved By:</i>		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Name:	Date:
Sector Manager:	Name: Robert H. Montgomery (SM)	Date: 20-Aug-2013

¹ Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.