

# INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET

## CONCEPT STAGE

**Report No.:** ISDSC628

**Date ISDS Prepared/Updated:** 26-May-2014

**Date ISDS Approved/Disclosed:** 29-May-2014

### I. BASIC INFORMATION

#### A. Basic Project Data

<b>Country:</b>	China	<b>Project ID:</b>	P122383
<b>Project Name:</b>	Landscape Approach to Wildlife Conservation in Northeast China (P122383)		
<b>Task Team Leader:</b>	Garo J. Batmanian		
<b>Estimated Appraisal Date:</b>	02-Jun-2014	<b>Estimated Board Date:</b>	30-Sep-2014
<b>Managing Unit:</b>	EASCS	<b>Lending Instrument:</b>	Investment Project Financing
<b>GEF Focal Area:</b>	Biodiversity		
<b>Sector(s):</b>	Forestry (100%)		
<b>Theme(s):</b>	Biodiversity (100%)		
<b>Financing (In USD Million)</b>			
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	18.00	<b>Total Bank Financing:</b>	0.00
<b>Financing Gap:</b>	0.00		
<b>Financing Source</b>			<b>Amount</b>
Borrower			15.00
Global Environment Facility (GEF)			3.00
Total			18.00
<b>Environmental Category:</b>	B - Partial Assessment		
<b>Is this a Repeater project?</b>	No		

#### B. Project Objectives

10. The project development objective is to help create the ecological conditions for recovery of threatened biodiversity in priority ecological landscapes in the far northeast of China, using the Amur Tiger as an indicator species.

11. The project would do this through: (a) enhancing the extension and effectiveness of protected area/network management, (b) increasing wildlife carrying capacity through restoration,

expansion and connectivity of critical habitats, including the expansion of biodiversity-friendly landscapes adjacent to protected areas; (c) promoting more effective law enforcement and monitoring in both protected areas and the greater landscape to reduce mortality of flagship species; and (e) reducing human/wildlife conflict by increasing benefits to and buy-in from local communities for wildlife conservation.

### **C. Project Description**

#### Project Components

Component 1: Institutional coordination to mainstream wildlife conservation across sectors. (Estimated at US \$5.59 million, including US\$0.49 million from GEF and US\$5.1 million from co-financing sources). This component would support:

- Policy and planning (identification of priority habitat areas for tiger protection, provincial conservation and restoration plans, development/updating policies and regulations to reduce human/tiger conflicts (e.g., through e.g., compensation mechanisms); and
- Institutional arrangements (establishing a Northeast wildlife conservation panel); promoting increased Sino-Russian cooperation for tiger conservation (e.g., promoting joint anti-poaching activities, staff training and consolidation of statistics).

The expected outcomes are a strengthened policy framework for the implementation and management of priority ecological landscapes to protect tiger and other wildlife habitat in Heilongjiang and Jilin Provinces.

Component 2: A landscape approach to the conservation and restoration of priority ecosystems and increased effectiveness of habitat protection in the Changbaishan Landscape. (Estimated at US\$ 7.96 million, including US\$ 1.36 million from GEF and US\$ 6.6 million from co-financing sources). This component would support:

- Increased management effectiveness in 4 existing NRs (equipment, NR management plans and plan regulation plans and training);
- Creation of 3 new NRs (support for preparation & application materials and processes and limited investment in 2 of the 3 reserves);
- Ecological restoration (prey re-introduction, restoration of habitat, snare removal); and
- Technical monitoring (wildlife/cats/prey, habitat, CC impacts).

The expected outcomes are: (a) increased management effectiveness among project supported NRs measured by METT (target to be defined during preparation), (b) 3 new NRs established creating 877 km<sup>2</sup> of new protected area for tiger and other wildlife enhanced forest ecosystem integrity in priority landscapes in Northeast China and (c) integrated cross-provincial ecological monitoring program established.

Component 3: Reducing human wildlife conflict in priority forest landscapes (capacity building and enforcement, environmental education, incentives to build community support for conservation). (Estimated at US\$3.43 million, including US\$0.93 million from GEF and US\$2.50 million from co-financing sources). This component would support:

- Training of forestry staff outside of NRs focused on local community participation and promoting tiger friendly land use;

- Improved patrolling and enforcement through the implementation of SMART patrolling for wildlife conservation in priority sites in Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces (with phased adoption throughout the PA network of the target area);
- Pilot mitigation measures (compensation, tiger-friendly forestry production through reforestation, forest thinning and forest diversification); and
- Increased public awareness

The expected outcome is: increased buy-in from local communities to conserve wildlife and protect ecosystems.

Component 4: Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation (Estimated at US\$1.02 million, including US\$0.22 million from GEF and US\$0.8 million from co-financing sources). This component would support project management activities to be carried out by the implementing agency and coordination between provinces and across international boundaries.

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

The project is to extend or strengthen the existing restriction of access in some existing wildlife protection areas in eastern Jilin Province and southeastern Heilongjiang Province. The areas are traditional forestry area in China and currently covered by forestry with low population density. People living inside the areas mainly include forestry workers and their families, as well as few villages, and their income is mainly from outside. The two provinces stated that the people inside has very limited impacts on the protection of the areas, such as self-support farming around villages/communities and collecting forest products in the forest areas. There are a few ethnic minority villages, particularly Manchu and Korean, in the project areas.

#### **E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies**

The National PCU is within the State Forest Administration and the three provincial PMMUs are the Jilin Provincial Forest Department and Heilongjiang Provincial Forest Department, which have no enough capacity for WB safeguard policies. The team will need to strengthen their capacity to prepare and implement the project in line with World Bank environmental and social safeguard policies. The PCU and each PPMU will assign a specific staff to take charge safeguard issues and experienced environment and social consultants will be entrusted to assist preparation work related to the safeguard instruments. Through the project cycle the World Bank Team will provide training to the involved staff and consultants.

#### **F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team**

Songling Yao (EASCS)

Yiren Feng (EASCS)

## **II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY**

<b>Safeguard Policies</b>	<b>Triggered?</b>	<b>Explanation (Optional)</b>
Environmental Assessment OP/ BP 4.01	Yes	The proposed project includes Improve management effectiveness of 4 existing protected areas (nature reserves), create 3 protected areas, Reintroduce population of prey to improve tiger habitat, Restore vegetation (forest enriching, planting cut areas) to

		<p>improvetiger habitat, Improve monitoring and enforcement outside protected areas, Increase awareness of local communities (Envt. Education) etc. The OP4.01 is triggered due to the potential impacts on natural habitats and social issues such as potential access restrictions to protection and conservation areas etc., and EIA (including EMP as one chapter of EIA) will be prepared to meet the Bank safeguard requirements. The EIA (EMP) will include the following contents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Some small civil works such as the buildings of protection stations are expected to be constructed to improve management effectiveness of existing protected areas as well as the new ones to be created under this project. Thus, the Environmental Code of Practice (ECOP) needs to be prepared to address the potential impacts and identify mitigation measures.</li> <li>•Key actions on vegetation restoration, afforestation, artificial tending is expected to take place to improve tiger habitats. The Environmental Protection Guideline for plantation will be prepared as part of the EMP, and a stand-alone Pest Management Plan (PMP) will be prepared.</li> <li>•The proposed project includes reintroduction population of prey to improve tiger habitat, the risk and potential impacts of such component needs to be assessed and included in EIA/EMP, including the requirements for artificial feeding of prey, disease control and epidemic prevention, and relevant monitoring activities to ensure the safety of the tigers, and also how the project will manage the risks.</li> <li>• Institutional arrangements, monitoring and reporting arrangements and budget for the implementation of the EMP</li> </ul> <p>A ToR for the EA/EMP will be submitted to the RSS for review prior to beginning of studies.</p>
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	<p>The project includes the improvement of the management effectiveness of existing protected areas, and creation of new protection areas, which are both critical natural habitats as defined under the policy, and the project also includes the potential impacts of reintroducing</p>

		prey population on the ecology/ecological balance of the protected areas.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	The project will include limited reforestation and afforestation with local, indigenous species. It will not entail conversion of natural forests, commercial harvesting operation and the introduction of any invasive species. However, the project has the potential to have impacts on the rights and welfare of people and their level of dependence upon or interaction with forests, the policy is therefore triggered. Given the very limited relocation/access restriction proposed by the clients, the adverse impacts should be minor. The project will prepare social management plan (SMP), the relevant context of SMP will be incorporated into the EMP accordingly. In addition, the alternative livelihood will be designed and implemented outside of the protected areas, as part of the project activities.
Pest Management OP 4.09	Yes	The project will include critical areas of vegetation restoration, afforestation, artificial tending, and nursery management etc. A stand-alone Pest Management Plan (PMP) will be prepared to guide the application of pesticides for the forest activities.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/ BP 4.11	TBD	Initial screening indicated that project sites are not located in or next to any known areas with physical, cultural, or natural relics. The further survey will be conducted as part of the EA preparation process. In addition, the chance findings procedure will be included in the EMP and the bidding document and contract.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	Yes	Some villages of Manzhou Minority and Korean Minority were found in the project areas, particularly in Hunchun NNR, Laoyeling PNR and Niaoqingshan NNR, and so the OP 4.10 is triggered. Further IP screening will be implemented by the following mission and the social consultants in the next step. Given the specific project activities and their impacts on the minority villages are not clear at this stage, so an IPPF (EMDPF) needs to be prepared and an IPP (EMDP) will be prepared if needed in line with the prepared IPPF (EMDPF). The documents mentioned above should be integrated into a Social Management Plan to be

		prepared covering all social issues under the project.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	<p>Land Acquisition and Resettlement: The project probably triggers limited land acquisition and relocation issue, including household relocation, farmland transferred to forest land.</p> <p>For any relocation of village/community identified before project appraisal, resettlement planning is needed, with one or several RPs</p> <p>For any uncertain resettlement before project appraisal, due to absence of function area determination or other reasons, a resettlement policy framework needs preparation;</p> <p>Other relevant resettlement activities outside protection areas should be integrated into the above documents;</p> <p>Any implemented and undergoing resettlement actions relevant to the project should be reviewed and documented in a resettlement implementation review report.</p> <p>Potential restriction of access: Most of project protection areas possibly to some extent trigger restriction of access issues. For all strengthened or new-built restriction of access, which may cause income reduction for the affected population, a Process Framework should be prepared. The PF covers identifying scope of restriction action and affected people, evaluating impacts and exploring measures, etc.</p> <p>The RP/RPF/PF will also be integrated into the SMP.</p>
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	the project will not finance nor are any of its activities dependent on a dam as defined the Safety of Dams policy.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	The project is not located in any international waterways as defined under the policy. No action is required under this policy.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	The project is not located in any known disputed areas as defined under the policy. No action is required under this policy

### III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

**A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS:** 15-Jul-2014

**B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing<sup>1</sup> should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS:**

SFA will prepare an EA and Social Management Plan for the project

### IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader:	Name: Garo J. Batmanian	
<b><i>Approved By:</i></b>		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Name: Peter Leonard (RSA)	Date: 28-May-2014
Sector Manager:	Name: Iain G. Shuker (SM)	Date: 29-May-2014

<sup>1</sup> 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.