

**INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATASHEET
APPRAISAL STAGE**

I. Basic Information

Date prepared/updated: 02/23/2011

Report No.: AC5835

1. Basic Project Data

Country: Argentina	Project ID: P114294
Project Name: Rural Corridors and Biodiversity	
Task Team Leader: Robert Ragland Davis	
GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity	Global Supplemental ID:
Estimated Appraisal Date: February 28, 2011	Estimated Board Date: April 7, 2011
Managing Unit: LCSAR	Lending Instrument: Specific Investment Loan
Sector: Forestry (50%);General agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (50%)	
Theme: Biodiversity (67%);Other environment and natural resources management (33%)	
IBRD Amount (US\$m.):	0.00
IDA Amount (US\$m.):	0.00
GEF Amount (US\$m.):	6.28
PCF Amount (US\$m.):	0.00
Other financing amounts by source:	
BORROWER/RECIPIENT	13.00
<u>Miscellaneous 1</u>	<u>2.30</u>
	15.30
Environmental Category: B - Partial Assessment	
Repeater <input type="checkbox"/>	
Is this project processed under OP 8.50 (Emergency Recovery) or OP 8.00 (Rapid Response to Crises and Emergencies)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

2. Project Objectives

The Global Environmental Objective of the project is to increase protection of vulnerable natural areas and conserve biological diversity through the establishment, strengthening and operational startup of protected areas, strengthening of the SIFAP and provincial- and private- sector conservation capacities, as well as through interventions to initiate model corridors in the Argentine Chaco and Patagonian Steppe and Coastal-Marine ecosystems.

3. Project Description

Component 1 will finance the establishment, strengthening and operational startup of six new protected areas within the priority areas and conduct sustainable use subprojects with producers. Component 2 will develop and implement a multi-stakeholder process for corridors conservation in two high-priority ecosystems. Component 3 will strengthen the Federal System of Protected Areas (SIFAP) to coordinate multi-stakeholder participation for biodiversity conservation, particularly with provinces. Component 4 provides the

technical and fiduciary support elements to ensure efficient execution of the project through administration, monitoring and evaluation, planning and coordination.

4. Project Location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis

Primarily in the Patagonian Steppe and Atlantic Coastal-Marine areas of the provinces of Santa Cruz and Chubut, and in the Grand Chaco Forest ecosystem of the provinces of Chaco and Santiago del Estero.

Patagonian Steppe and Atlantic Coastal-Marine Ecosystem. The Patagonian Steppe is an extensive ecoregion of grasslands and shrub range that crosses from the Atlantic Ocean to the foothills of the Andes in Southern Argentina and Chile. Although the steppe is characterized by windy conditions and low rainfall (under 200 mm per annum), a narrow band of steppe adjacent to the Valdivian forest ecosystem (near the Andes) has higher rainfall, around 300 mm per annum. The Patagonian coastal-marine ecosystem runs north-south along the Argentine coastline from Tierra del Fuego to the province of Rio Negro, south of Buenos Aires Province. Both the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems provide important habitats for many species of global and national significance including the guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*), Darwin's rhea (*Pterocnemia pennata*), pichi (*Zaedyus pichiy*), zorrino patagónico (*Conepatus humboldtii*), red fox (*Pseudalopex culpaeus*), puma (*Puma concolor*), the hoarfrosted Hill's Lizard (*Liolaemus escarchadosi*), Magellanic penguin (*Spheniscus magellanicus*), three species of shags, including imperial shag (*Phalacrocorax atriceps*), little grison (*Galictis cuja*) gaviotín sudamericano (*Sterna hirundinacea*), coscoroba swan (*Coscoroba coscoroba*), black necked swan (*Cygnus melanocorypha*), lobo marino de un pelo (*Otaria flavescens*), peales dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus australis*), Commerson's Dolphin (*Cephalorhynchus commersonii*), coirón (*Festuca pallescens*), Junellia (*Junellia tridens*) and green shrub (*Lepidophyllum cupressiforme*), one of which is threatened.

Parque Chaqueño Forest Ecosystem. Over 76% of native forests are located in the #Bosque Chaqueño# (or #Chaco#) ecoregion. This area in northwest Argentina spans twelve provinces and is the most threatened eco-region in the country, primarily as a result of the massive industrial-scale clearing for soybean cultivation. The most current deforestation estimates show a loss of 317,000 ha of forest in Santiago del Estero, Chaco and Formosa provinces alone for the year 2007. While the new Forestry Law (No. 26.331 of 2007) passed in December 2007 may have slowed the rate of conversion momentarily, forest fires reportedly have increased, which contributes to forest degradation.

Biodiversity of global and national importance in the Chaco includes quebracho colorado (*Schinopsis lorentzii* y *balansae*), quebracho blanco (*Aspidosperma quebracho-blanco*), mistol (*Ziziphus mistol*), vinal (*Prosopis ruscifolia*), tatú carreta (*Priodontes maximus*), three species of peccary (*Catagonus wagneri*, *Pecari tajacu*, *Tayassu pecari*), giant anteater (*Mirmecophaga tridactyla*), boa (*Boa constrictor*), yaguareté (*Panthera onca*), Darwin's rhea (*Rhea pennata*), crowned eagle (*Harpyhaliaetus coronatus*), and a tortoise (*Chelonoidis chilensis*) -- 6 of which are threatened.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists

Mr Francis V. Fragano (LCSDE)

Ms Mi Hyun Bae Mbayo (LCSSO)

6. Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No
Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01)	X	
Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04)	X	
Forests (OP/BP 4.36)	X	
Pest Management (OP 4.09)		X
Physical Cultural Resources (OP/BP 4.11)	X	
Indigenous Peoples (OP/BP 4.10)	X	
Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12)	X	
Safety of Dams (OP/BP 4.37)		X
Projects on International Waterways (OP/BP 7.50)		X
Projects in Disputed Areas (OP/BP 7.60)		X

II. Key Safeguard Policy Issues and Their Management

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts: No large-scale impacts are expected given the focus on biodiversity conservation with important investments in capacity and institution building. However, an EA was prepared as part of project preparation to identify the project's potential impacts, to develop appropriate mitigation measures for the possible limited negative impacts, mainly due to construction of new park infrastructure. Construction will be located to minimize impacts to key parts of protected areas and incorporate appropriate measures to minimize landscape visual impacts and integrate local designs and materials. Measures included in the EMP include environmental screening of works, mitigation of dust and noise, proper disposal of construction waste, worker health and safety standards, and wastewater management. Based on recent project activities (P039787 and P040808/LN 4085 AR) APN has shown excellent compliance with Bank standards, and has a set of protocols for works in parks which are comparable. Small-scale sustainable-land use projects with communities and small-producers in buffer zones are expected to have positive or negligible impacts on the environment. A screening process is included in the EMP for their selection, as are protocols for their implementation to ensure conformity with Bank standards and best practices.

APN has a policy of no involuntary resettlement, and the project does not support or include it. Inhabitants living inside the proposed protected area sites would therefore be able to choose to (i) relocate to an area outside of the protected area with an agreed compensation package or (ii) remain in the protected area under restrictions and land-use regimes that would ensure their livelihood but still be compatible with conservation objectives. In both cases, APN would provide training and investments to support the adjustment of the inhabitants to their new situation. APN has a demonstrated good history and success in working with these situations through the recently closed Biodiversity

Conservation Project. To cover the possibilities above and in compliance with OP 4.12, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and a Process Framework (PF) have been prepared, approved and disclosed by APN.

APN conducted a social assessment as part of project preparation. The Social Assessment indicates that Indigenous Peoples# communities do not exist in the proposed protected area sites. However, they customarily use the Chaco forest for natural resources (hunting and collecting non-timber forest products such as medicinal plants, and materials for construction). An IPPF has been developed by APN and disclosed to ensure that the needs and perspectives of the Indigenous People are included should the establishment of the new protected areas in the Chaco encompass forest or other areas traditionally used by them.

With respect to the corridor, Indigenous Peoples have been informed of the project and will be consulted in order to acquire their consent prior to their inclusion in corridors that may include their traditional territories. APN has a good history of working with Indigenous People in co-management within its existing protected areas.

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:

Impacts should be positive, and result in the conservation of native forests, grasslands and coastal-marine resources over the long term. The Project is expected to generate positive long-term impacts, through improved management of conservation areas and the surrounding landscape, with particular focus on training in new techniques, and inclusion of local communities in decision making and support for sustainable alternative economic opportunities.

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.

n/a

4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described. Given the client's focus on conservation, APN has a solid policy in place for ensuring that construction within protected areas includes an EA and mitigation measures for any potential impacts identified. Safeguards oversight is managed through APN regional offices to apply specific policies and procedures that include: measures to evaluate and protect physical cultural resources, construction best-practices, soil removal and debris management, and other human activities within protected areas. Construction is also designed in such a way as to consider landscape aspects and culturally appropriate architectural designs. Sustainable production activities would be of small-scale and would be approved based on a participatory approach through local committees and evaluated through criteria that ensure no harm to natural habitats and are supportive of conservation goals. A negative list is included to ensure no projects procure or utilize pesticides, no endangered species are impacted or utilized and no exotic species are introduced. Some small-scale forest resource and non-timber forest product use are

considered in the framework through a process consistent with OP 4.36 in regard to community-based approaches to forestry management as well as Provincial forest and wildlife laws.

APN also has a policy of "no involuntary resettlement" and for social participation in protected area buffer zones. The client has managed two IBRD projects and one GEF projects with similar characteristics and has a good track record for compliance, and high capacity for social and environmental management.

APN has prepared an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) to guide the required culturally appropriate consultations and to address any potential impacts to Indigenous Peoples. The Framework outlines the requirement for consent by Indigenous Peoples prior to including their territories within the framework of a Conservation Corridor. These requirements are included in the operational manual. In the event that Indigenous Peoples are affected by the project, this framework will guide the preparation of site-specific Indigenous Peoples Plans (IPPs).

A Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and a Process Framework (PF) have been prepared by APN. The RPF will guide the preparation of an Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), if necessary, for addressing any relocation of human settlements located inside any of the conservation sites during planning and implementation of the project. The abbreviated RAP has been reviewed and approved by the Bank and disclosed in country and in the InfoShop. The PF addresses possible restrictions of access of local communities to natural resources in the protected area sites. It establishes the process for involving potentially affected communities in planning and implementation of the project, while identifying how affected communities will be assisted in restoring their livelihood, as a consequence of loss of access to traditional natural resources.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people. The main project beneficiaries will be (i) local communities and rural poor whose livelihoods depend on the natural resource base, particularly in the Argentine Steppe and Chaco; (ii) the total supply-chain involved in Argentina's nature-based tourism; and (iii) civil society as beneficiaries of the project. (In the event the IPPF is activated to include Indigenous Peoples, they would also be considered as beneficiaries.) Each of the six protected areas will have consultative committees at the protected area and corridor levels to inform local beneficiaries about the project and involve them in protected area management and sustainable alternative livelihoods activities. Also, the corridors component will form participative committees to identify needs and ways of approaching conservation issues.

The EA and framework for environmental management has been disclosed both locally on the APN website, as well as the Bank InfoShop in a timely manner prior to Appraisal. In addition, APN has held consultation meetings in the regions where the project will focus its activities and has also consulted national NGOs and Provincial and Municipal

authorities. In addition to the management committees that participate in the planning and monitoring of investment activities within protected areas and development of the sustainable development projects, the project integrates a Social Participation Plan, which integrates all relevant stakeholders in the full cycle of project implementation. APN has 5 different levels of social participation within its ongoing management system including: Local Advisory Committees (Comisión Asesora Local), Co-management Committees (Comité de Co-Manejo), Biosphere Reserve Management Committees (Comité de Gestión de las Reservas de la Biosfera), Operational and Strategic Planning and Evaluation (Evaluación y Planificación Estratégica y Operativa) and Public Meetings (Audiencias Públicas).

B. Disclosure Requirements Date

Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other:

Was the document disclosed prior to appraisal?	Yes
Date of receipt by the Bank	02/09/2011
Date of "in-country" disclosure	02/17/2011
Date of submission to InfoShop	02/22/2011
For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors	

Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Policy Process:

Was the document disclosed prior to appraisal?	Yes
Date of receipt by the Bank	02/07/2011
Date of "in-country" disclosure	02/09/2011
Date of submission to InfoShop	02/18/2011

Indigenous Peoples Plan/Planning Framework:

Was the document disclosed prior to appraisal?	Yes
Date of receipt by the Bank	01/19/2011
Date of "in-country" disclosure	02/09/2011
Date of submission to InfoShop	02/18/2011

Pest Management Plan:

Was the document disclosed prior to appraisal?	
Date of receipt by the Bank	
Date of "in-country" disclosure	
Date of submission to InfoShop	

*** If the project triggers the Pest Management and/or Physical Cultural Resources, the respective issues are to be addressed and disclosed as part of the Environmental Assessment/Audit/or EMP.**

If in-country disclosure of any of the above documents is not expected, please explain why:

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level (to be filled in when the ISDS is finalized by the project decision meeting)

OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment	
Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?	Yes
If yes, then did the Regional Environment Unit or Sector Manager (SM) review and approve the EA report?	Yes
Are the cost and the accountabilities for the EMP incorporated in the credit/loan?	Yes
OP/BP 4.04 - Natural Habitats	
Would the project result in any significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats?	No
If the project would result in significant conversion or degradation of other (non-critical) natural habitats, does the project include mitigation measures acceptable to the Bank?	N/A
OP/BP 4.11 - Physical Cultural Resources	
Does the EA include adequate measures related to cultural property?	Yes
Does the credit/loan incorporate mechanisms to mitigate the potential adverse impacts on cultural property?	Yes
OP/BP 4.10 - Indigenous Peoples	
Has a separate Indigenous Peoples Plan/Planning Framework (as appropriate) been prepared in consultation with affected Indigenous Peoples?	Yes
If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Sector Manager review the plan?	Yes
If the whole project is designed to benefit IP, has the design been reviewed and approved by the Regional Social Development Unit or Sector Manager?	N/A
OP/BP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement	
Has a resettlement plan/abbreviated plan/policy framework/process framework (as appropriate) been prepared?	Yes
If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Sector Manager review the plan?	Yes
OP/BP 4.36 - Forests	
Has the sector-wide analysis of policy and institutional issues and constraints been carried out?	Yes
Does the project design include satisfactory measures to overcome these constraints?	N/A
Does the project finance commercial harvesting, and if so, does it include provisions for certification system?	No
The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information	
Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank's Infoshop?	Yes
Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?	Yes
All Safeguard Policies	
Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities	Yes

been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?

Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost? Yes

Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies? N/A

Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents? Yes

D. Approvals

<i>Signed and submitted by:</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>
Task Team Leader:	Mr Robert Ragland Davis	02/18/2011
Environmental Specialist:	Mr Francis V. Fragano	02/22/2011
Social Development Specialist	Ms Mi Hyun Bae Mbayo	02/18/2011
Additional Environmental and/or Social Development Specialist(s):		
<i>Approved by:</i>		
Sector Manager:	Ms Ethel Sennhauser	02/22/2011
Comments:		