

**INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET
CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.: AC4096

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 03/12/2009

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. 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: September 6, 2009	Estimated Board Date: October 30, 2009
Managing Unit: LCSAR	Lending Instrument: Specific Investment Loan
Sector: Forestry (50%);General agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (50%)	
Theme: Biodiversity (P);Other environment and natural resources management (S)	
IBRD Amount (US\$m.):	0.00
IDA Amount (US\$m.):	0.00
GEF Amount (US\$m.):	7.00
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

B. Project Objectives [from section 2 of PCN]

The proposed project development objective is: Conserve globally important biodiversity of Argentina through the strengthening of the Federal Protected Areas System and development of conservation corridors in priority ecosystems.

C. Project Description [from section 3 of PCN]

To reach the project development objective, the following components are proposed:

A. Federal Protected Areas System strengthened in its planning, management, legal, and incentives structure (GEF 0.96 million)

This would be achieved through several outputs including: (i) Development of a Federal Protected Areas Action Plan through a thorough consultation process, legal, cost and institutional analysis and guided by ecoregional gap analysis (ii) Development and implementation of financial incentives models for conservation on public and private lands (iii) Legal and

regulatory framework for private conservation (iv) Provincial capacity assessments (v)
Increasing natural resources and protected areas management capacities

B. Conservation Corridors developed in the Grand Chaco and Patagonian Steppe (GEF \$1.8 million)

The protected areas system would make incremental investments in developing two ecoregional conservation corridors. The Grand Chaco corridor is presently more advanced in its technical design and consultation process than the Patagonian Steppe. Among the outputs for this component are: (i) implementation of the strategic plan for conservation corridors of the Gran Chaco including strengthening provincial conservation capacity, management committees, legal and regulatory framework for the corridor, pilot activities in 3 provinces and plans for expansion to the remaining 4 provinces (ii) Design of a strategy for conservation in the Patagonian Steppe including agreements among the provinces, technical design of the corridors, and consultation processes.

C. Protected Areas System increases ecosystem representation (GEF \$4 million)

Based on a National Gap Analysis the protected areas system would be strengthened and its representation for conservation of priority ecosystem increased. Up to six new protected areas would be strengthened or created within the SIFAP and incremental investments made to ensure management effectiveness. Protected areas would fall within both national and provincial categories.

D. Project Management, Monitoring, and Evaluation (GEF \$0.7 million)

The project would be mainstreamed and led by APN. Sub-components would include: (i) Project Management for technical and fiduciary oversight and support to APN. 2) Monitoring and Evaluation to ensure adequate monitoring of impacts and to assist in strengthening the quality of implementation and, 3) Dissemination of on-going project innovations, lessons-learned, impacts, and other communication aspects needed to strengthen outcomes.

Beneficiaries

The main project beneficiaries will be (i) the 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) and civil society as beneficiaries of the project. In addition, the project would aim to bolster the technical capacity and outreach of federal and provincial organizations working in natural resource issues to provide technical, policy and regulatory leadership within the field of natural resource management and fostering inter-institutional coordination and collaboration between many of the agencies involved in environmental and natural resources management.

The project's total costs of US\$ 22.30 million consist of a GEF donation of US\$7.0 million and US\$ 15.30 in co-financing to be implemented over a five year period. As required by GEF policy, the Agency Fee would be an estimated \$0.7 million.

D. Project location (if known)

The project geographical scope is national as it potentially includes all terrestrial and marine ecoregions of Argentina. The corridor activities will concentrate on the Chaco (with initial focus on Formosa, Chaco, and Santiago del Estero provinces) and the Patagonian Arid Steppe (including Neuquen, Rio Negro, Chubut, Santa Cruz, and Tierra del Fuego). Based on a gap analysis, approximately six protected areas will receive investments in infrastructure and strengthened management capacity.

E. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies [from PCN]

APN is a strong, autonomous federal institution with increasing resources and manages one of the oldest parks systems in the hemisphere. They have successfully implemented several Bank and GEF funded projects while maintaining high standards in regard to environmental review and safeguards. The institution has its own policies and procedures in regard to social and environmental assessment as well.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists

Mr Juan Martinez (LCSSO)

Mr Francis V. Fragano (LCSEG)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01)	X		
No large-scale impacts are expected given the focus on biodiversity conservation with important investments in capacity and institution-building. However, an EA will be done as part of project preparation to identify the project’s potential impacts, to develop appropriate mitigation measures for the possible limited negative impacts, and to recommend enhancement measures for positive impacts, as needed or required. These mitigation and enhancement measures will be summarized in an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) that will include screening criteria and environmental procedures. The EA will also evaluate whether other environmental safeguards are triggered, and develop appropriate procedures, if necessary.			
Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04)	X		
The project seeks conservation of natural habitats, therefore will seek to enhance biodiversity within protected areas (national, provincial, and private) and increase mainstreaming of conservation in the productive landscape outside protected areas. Procedures will be developed within the EMP to ensure no natural habitats are affected by infrastructure.			
Forests (OP/BP 4.36)	X		
The project will seek to increase protection of native forests and will not promote its degradation or conversion. The corridors component would seek to improve conditions for forest protection and conservation by supporting the creation of financial incentives. Incentives would be directed towards conservation and protection rather than use of forests however some flexibility may exist in this regard and provisions within the EMP will seek to ensure conformity with the applicable safeguard regarding sustainable use of forests as well as national conservation and forest legislation.			
Pest Management (OP 4.09)		X	
No pesticides are to be employed.			
Physical Cultural Resources (OP/BP 4.11)	X		
No physical cultural resources have been identified given that protected areas to be included			

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	TBD
in the project are not yet selected however many areas in Argentina have such resources. The APN policy in regard to cultural resources seeks protection and enhancement of these resources consistent with Bank policy in this regard.			
Indigenous Peoples (OP/BP 4.10)	X		
APN will carry-out a social assessment as pertains in particular to the establishment of corridors in the Chaco and Patagonia. Based on the designs and planned implementation activities for the corridors, an IPP will be prepared.			
Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12)	X		
No involuntary resettlement is planned or expected under the project, however activities within protected areas and corridors may potentially limit access to resources of certain communities and groups (to be determined during preparation). In this regard, the social assessment will incorporate a resettlement process framework if identified as necessary during project preparation.			
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	

Environmental Category: B - Partial Assessment

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

- A. Target date for the Quality Enhancement Review (QER), at which time the PAD-stage ISDS would be prepared: 06/30/2009
- B. For simple projects that will not require a QER, the target date for preparing the PAD-stage ISDS: N/A
- C. 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.
Safeguards assessments initiated February 2009 and Final in September 2009.

IV. APPROVALS

<i>Signed and submitted by:</i>		
Task Team Leader:	Mr Robert Ragland Davis	02/09/2009
<i>Approved by:</i>		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Mr Reidar Kvam	02/09/2009
Comments:		
Sector Manager:	Ms Ethel Sennhauser	03/09/2009
Comments:		

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.

