

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC894

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 19-Oct-2012

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Belize	Project ID:	P131408
Project Name:	BZ Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation (P131408)		
Task Team Leader:	Enos E. Esikuri		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	14-Jan-2013	Estimated Board Date:	30-Oct-2013
Managing Unit:	LCSN	Lending Instrument:	Specific Investment Loan
Sector:	General agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (50%), Public administration-Agriculture, fishing and forestry (50%)		
Theme:	Climate change (40%), Biodiversity (30%), Environmental policies and institutions (20%), Natural disaster management (5%), Other environment and natural resources management (5%)		
Financing (In USD Million)			
Financing Source		Amount	
Borrower		0.00	
Adaptation Fund		6.00	
Total		6.00	
Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

B. Project Objectives

16. The objective of the proposed Project is to implement priority ecosystem-based marine conservation and climate adaptation measures to strengthen the climate resilience of the Belize Barrier Reef System. Specifically, the project will support (i) the improvement of the coral reef protection regime including an expansion and enforcement of the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and replenishment (no-take) zones in strategically selected locations to climate resilience, (ii) promotion of sustainable alternative livelihoods and income diversification for affected users of the reef, and (iii) building local capacity and raising awareness regarding the importance of overall health of the reef ecosystem and the climate resilience of coral reefs to community welfare. The

activities are carefully selected based on the concept of ecosystem-based adaptation that the best chance of enhancing the resilience (resistance and recovery potential) of natural systems to climate change impacts is to reduce local stressors (e.g., sedimentation, pollution, and loss of critical nursery habitats (especially mangroves and seagrass) caused by unplanned coastal development and marine dredging, nutrient pollution from agrochemicals, overfishing, etc.) which undermine the innate resilience to external shocks that is characteristic of healthy, robust ecosystems and to strengthen the coral reefs thermal resilience.

C. Project Description

The objective of the proposed Project is to implement the priority ecosystem-based marine conservation and climate adaptation measures to strengthen the climate resilience of the Belize Barrier Reef System. Specifically, the project will support (i) the improvement of the coral reef protection regime including an expansion and enforcement of the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and replenishment (no-take) zones in strategically selected locations to climate resilience, (ii) promotion of sustainable alternative livelihoods and income diversification for affected users of the reef, and (iii) building local capacity and raising awareness regarding the importance of overall health of the reef ecosystem and the climate resilience of coral reefs to community welfare. The activities are carefully selected based on the concept of ecosystem-based adaptation that the best chance of enhancing the resilience (resistance and recovery potential) of natural systems to climate change impacts is to reduce local stressors (e.g., sedimentation, pollution, and loss of critical nursery habitats, especially mangroves and seagrass, caused by unplanned coastal development and marine dredging, nutrient pollution from agrochemicals, overfishing, etc.) which undermine the innate resilience to external shocks that is characteristic of healthy, robust ecosystems and to strengthen the coral reefs thermal resilience.

The main expected key results are:

- Marine protected areas and no-take replenishment zone expanded and secured (percentage of territorial waters and ha).
- Coastal zone managed effectively through implementation of Coastal Zone Management Plan, measured by coastline under protection (km) and no net loss of mangroves (ha)
- Project beneficiaries who have adopted alternative livelihoods and reduced dependency on traditional fishing for household income (number), of which female (percentage)
- Awareness raising campaigns and dissemination of project information and project supported investments reach and change attitude of intended beneficiaries (%)
- Restored coral sites with resilient varieties grown in coral nurseries (# and ha)

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

The Project would support the entire MPA network of Belize to improve its management effectiveness by strengthening the legal framework for the MPA network, enhancing the enforcement, and implementing a comprehensive monitoring protocol. The specific emphasis would be on the area surrounding Turneffe Atoll, Southwater Caye Marine Reserve, Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary and Estuary Lagoon Systems.

The proposed adaptation, conservation, and restoration activities of the Belize Barrier Reef System are of immense socio-economic significance, providing an opportunity for maintaining and potentially increasing the income level and marine resources available for an estimated 203,000 people living in the coastal areas of Belize.

According to the National Poverty Assessment of 2010, about 43 percent of the population

(approximately 114,000 people) remains below the poverty line. Many of the fishers in a number of coastal and rural communities are indigent, especially concentrated in the poorer districts of Corozal and Toledo. The preliminary target communities are those who depend on marine resources of Turneffe Atoll, Corozal Bay, and Southwater Caye. These people include the Mestizos in Corozal, the Creole in the Belize district, the Mayas in Toledo, and the Garifuna in Stann Creek. Fishing has traditionally been a means of subsistence in coastal communities and has been the main source of protein. However, it has been transformed into a commercial activity over the years and, as a result, has affected the availability of fish for local consumption as an inexpensive source of protein. The fishers who operate off the Belizean shore are not only from these coastal communities. There has been an increase in Guatemalan and Honduran fishers who have obtained legal fishing licenses from the Belizean Government. The coastal population of Guatemala and Honduras is much larger than that of Belize. Therefore, the additional pressure from these fishers is high enough to threaten the local fishers. Hence proposed activities to improve the reef's protection regime and to provide alternative livelihoods to the local fishers are critical.

As part of project activities, a social assessment and Process Framework would be undertaken to comply with Bank's Safeguards policies. The results of the social assessment and consultations would be used to inform the design and implementation of project interventions.

E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

Overall, the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) will be responsible for the overall implementation of the project, including environmental and social safeguards, financial management and procurement. PACT would execute the Project, in collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries, and Sustainable Development (MFFSD), and will establish a dedicated project implementation unit (PIU). PACT has extensive experience in grant management, resource mobilization, and fiduciary management for the National Protected Areas Secretariat and has managed grants from GEF, TNC, Oak Foundation and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) on behalf of the Government. PACT has sufficient financial management and institutional capacity to have been recently accredited by the Adaptation Fund Board as the National Implementing Entity for Belize. If additional capacity is needed for the preparation of the social assessment and social safeguards instruments, an individual consultant or firm will be hired to supplement PACT's current staff skills.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Anjali Acharya (EASVS)

Kimberly Vilar (LCSSO)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/ BP 4.01	Yes	Under this project, Component 2 supports economically viable and sustainable alternative livelihoods for local populations whose economic activities are directly impacted by the adverse effects of climate change as well as by the expansion of the no-take and MPA network. Potential alternative livelihoods activities include poly-culture of marine products such as

		<p>seaweed farming combined with cultivation of other marine products (e.g., conch, lobsters, sea cucumber, and crab) in an integrated cultivation system. Other marine tourism-based activities such as tour-guide training, whale shark tourism, dive master, sailing, would also be selectively supported by the Project based on their economic viability and sustainability.</p> <p>This project is classified as Category B, as the potential adverse environmental impacts from these supported livelihood activities on human populations or environmentally important areas are site-specific, reversible and can be readily mitigated. Since the exact location and/or nature of potential small investments to be financed under this project have not yet been determined, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be prepared to conform to Bank safeguard policies. This will include best practices for aquaculture/ mariculture and tourism activities, an identification of potential environmental impacts, and associated mitigation measures.</p>
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	<p>This project would not support or lead to the conversion of natural habitats, including marine ecosystems. In fact, it would help rehabilitate, restore, and protect degraded critical marine ecosystems (such as coral reefs), which are important to preserve marine and coastal biodiversity and the quality of water resources. While the ESMF will explicitly forbid any project activities in areas supporting critical natural habitats or inducing significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats, this policy is triggered as a precaution. The ESMF will include guidance on how the livelihood activities would avoid the introduction of exotic or invasive species. Impact monitoring and evaluation will be defined for any harvesting activities.</p>
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	<p>This project will not lead to the destruction of forests and forest ecosystems, and in fact will support rehabilitation/restoration of critical areas (e.g., marine ecosystems such as mangrove and littoral forests) through community-based activities. Similar to the</p>

		natural habitats, the ESMF will explicitly forbid any project activities in areas supporting destruction or conversion of forests and forest ecosystems. However, due to the presence of forest ecosystems at potential sites, this safeguard policy is triggered as a precaution.
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	The project will not support the procurement or use of pesticides or other agricultural chemicals, or lead to the increased use of such chemicals.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/ BP 4.11	TBD	The project is not expected to have negative impacts on cultural property, including movable or immovable objects, sites, structures, groups of structures or natural features or landscapes with archaeological, paleontological, historical, architectural, religious, aesthetic or other cultural significance. During the preparation, more evaluation will be done to determine if sub-projects would trigger the policy.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	Yes	This policy is triggered to ensure culturally appropriate consultation and inclusion of Mayan and Garifuna fisherman within the targeted project areas. An Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework, and corresponding social assessment, is being prepared by the GOB with the purpose of establishing actions to be taken to proactively promote the preparation of economically viable subproject proposals, under Component 2, by communities living in the target areas as well as to mitigate any barriers to entry that Mayan or Garifuna communities could face in accessing the selection process for alternative livelihood support under this component.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	Due to the proposed expansion of the Marine Protected Areas and no-take zones, OP 4.12 is triggered and a Process Framework will be prepared to establish a process by which members of potentially affected communities participate in design of project components, determination of measures necessary to achieve to recompose livelihoods, implementation and monitoring of relevant project activities. A draft process framework will be prepared by appraisal. On the other hand, the ESMF will include screening criteria to ensure no

		involuntary taking of land occurs under the project.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	The project will not support the construction or rehabilitation of dams. No project investments will rely on the operation of existing dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	The project will not support activities affecting international waterways as defined under the policy.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	TBD	While project activities will not be undertaken in disputed areas, this policy has been triggered in earlier Bank financed projects in Belize. During the preparation, guidance from Bank's legal department will be sought to determine whether to trigger this policy in this project.

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS: 28-Feb-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:

Launch on 9/3/2012 and completion on 12/21/2012.

IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader:	Name: Enos E. Esikuri	
Approved By:		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Name: Glenn S. Morgan (RSA)	Date: 24-Nov-2012
Sector Manager:	Name: Karin Erika Kemper (SM)	Date: 15-Nov-2012

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.