Scope of application

This safeguard applies to WWF's place-based activities (hereafter ‘activities’) that may involve a risk of harm to the health, safety and security of people and communities. This includes situations where community members take on specific roles and/or participate in the implementation of WWF's place-based activities.

For the purposes of this safeguard, health pertains to the physical, mental and social well-being of people and communities; safety pertains to people and communities being protected from accidents, injuries, and exposure to hazardous conditions; and security pertains to people and communities being protected from crime, violence and other intended or deliberate threats carried out by human actors.

Objectives

The objectives of this safeguard are to:

● Identify and avoid potentially adverse impacts to the health, safety and security of people and communities, or where avoidance is not achieved, minimise adverse impacts and respond to residual impacts through the identification and design of appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures, paying particular attention to people who may be in vulnerable situations;
● Respect in relation to their health, safety and security the rights of potentially affected people and communities to information and participation.

Requirements

When the Safeguards Screening determines that this safeguard applies, the following is required. Efforts to fulfil these requirements must be proportionate to the potential adverse impacts and WWF's role with respect to the impacts.
1. Prior to the implementation of activities that may affect the health, safety and security of people and communities an assessment has been carried out. The assessment should include an analysis of:
   
a. Potentially affected persons, paying particular attention to people who may be in vulnerable situations;
   
b. Conflict and/or post-conflict contexts, the interaction of activities with such context, potential risks that may arise from such interaction and the potential risk of creating new or exacerbating existing conflict;
   
c. Potential risk of harm and adverse impacts for people and communities on their:
      i. Health, e.g. through exposure to communicable diseases, an elevation of risk factors linked to other physical health conditions, an elevation of risk factors linked to mental health conditions, a limitation of access to health care;
      
ii. Safety, e.g. through exposure to accidents, physical injuries and hazardous conditions, increased vulnerability to natural hazards;
      
iii. Security, e.g. through exposure to the risk of violence or abuse (including physical, sexual and emotional). This includes assessing the possibility of activities contributing to gender-based violence;
      
   d. The potential for WWF’s place-based activities to increase the vulnerability of communities to health, safety and security risks;
   
e. All feasible project alternatives and preventive measures that avoid adverse impacts on the health, safety and security of people and communities.

2. Affected people and communities must be consulted in a culturally appropriate way during the safeguards process and be enabled to participate actively and effectively in decision-making processes relevant to them in the context of the activities. Particular attention must be paid to people who may be in vulnerable situations. This process should also be supported by qualified experts in the relevant fields.
3. Where all feasible project alternatives have been exhausted and adverse impacts cannot be avoided, measures to minimise and respond to these impacts must be identified. Mitigation measures must be fair and meaningful to affected people and communities, responding to the potential impacts.

4. Mitigation measures addressing potential adverse impacts related to the health, safety and security of people and communities should, as appropriate:
   a. Take into account differences in risk exposure and sensitivity of people who may be in vulnerable situations;
   b. Be developed in a conflict sensitive manner;
   c. Establish relevant preventive measures such as safety and security protocols and procedures;
   d. Include appropriate management plans and systems based on good international practice and designed and carried out with appropriate expertise;
   e. Include relevant emergency preparedness plans, that will be implemented and monitored in collaboration with stakeholders and relevant authorities.

5. Any security arrangements that are intended to protect personnel, property or affected people must be proportional and consistent with applicable national laws and good international industry practice.

6. Where WWF funds or supports a government agency or other third party to carry out activities that may lead to adverse impacts on the health, safety and security of people and communities, WWF expects this party to fully observe safeguards requirements in such activities, including with respect to the rights of the affected people and communities. WWF reserves the right to withdraw support if its safeguards requirements are not met.
Relationship to other safeguards

Where security arrangements may involve access restrictions, WWF will apply this safeguard alongside the WWF Safeguard on Restriction of Access and Resettlement.

Where activities may affect the health, safety and security of Indigenous peoples, WWF will apply this safeguard alongside the WWF Safeguard on Indigenous Peoples.