

6.0 Goals and Objectives

6.1 GOAL

The goal of this Biodiversity Strategy is to retain the biodiversity values of the Upstream Project Area on a regional scale for the long term. This goal is designed to be consistent with paragraph 10 of IFC's Performance Standard 6.

Box 6.1: IFC Performance Standard 6 paragraph 10 (critical habitat)

In areas of critical habitat, the client will not implement any project activities unless the following requirements are met:

- There are no measurable adverse impacts on the ability of the critical habitat to support the established population of species described in paragraph 9 or the functions of the critical habitat described in paragraph 9.
- There is no reduction in the population of any recognised critically endangered or endangered species and any lesser impacts are mitigated in accordance with paragraph 8.

6.2 OBJECTIVES

The Biodiversity Strategy is based on the premise that achieving this goal requires objectives at a regional, priority ecosystem and focal habitat scale as described in Chapter 5.

1. **To maintain the ecological intactness of the Upstream Project Area as a whole.** The long-term maintenance of biodiversity requires long-term functioning of the ecosystems in the Upstream Project Area. This objective can be realized by ensuring impacts capable of system-wide effects on function, i.e., invasion and spread of exotic weeds, pests and diseases, fire and uncontrolled access leading to wide-scale deforestation and defaunation, do not propagate into the Upstream Project Area as a whole.
2. **To conserve the priority ecosystems.** Some Project infrastructure will be built within these priority ecosystems and therefore it is necessary to demonstrate that these ecosystems do not degrade after construction. This has required changes to Project design, the development of special mitigation measures and will require ongoing management and control of access during operations.
3. **To protect focal habitats.** Focal habitats avoided or managed during construction need to be protected during operations to ensure that the risks of reducing a population of a critically endangered or endangered species are as low as possible.
4. **To account for residual impacts.** All projects have residual impacts and appropriately accounting for these by offsets is the final requirement to meet the goal of this Biodiversity Strategy.

Integral to achieving the goal and objectives of this Biodiversity Strategy is a management hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation, offset and monitoring, each of which is discussed in Chapters 7, 8, 9 and 10, respectively.

Plate 6.1: Stakeholder consultation at Benaria (October 2005)



