



Review and Update of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies

Phase 2

Feedback Summary

Date: November 10, 2014

Location (City, Country): Brussels, Belgium

Audience (Government, CSO, etc.): Government and multilateral partners

Overview and Key Issues Discussed:

On November 10, the World Bank hosted a consultation meeting with members of the Belgian government as well as the European Union at the World Bank office in Brussels. Charles di Leva, Chief Counsel, and Colin Scott, Lead Social Development Specialist, presented the proposed Environmental and Social Framework to stakeholders. The discussion focused on sustainability, climate change, human rights, and risk assessment. For purposes of conciseness, the following summary highlights comments and recommendations that were provided by individual representatives; collective comments and recommendations are noted as such.

Specific Feedback from Stakeholders

1. General Comments

- Consultation participants pointed out the need for adequate resourcing of World Bank safeguards in order to ensure effective implementation.
- Standards should not be lowered to the extent that complaints to the Inspection Panel are not possible anymore.
- The World Bank was asked to share the content and outcome of its discussions of the proposed framework with the Inspection Panel.
- The safeguards review should include Development Policy Operations (DPO), which represent 40% of the Bank's financing and are currently excluded from the review.

2. A Vision for Sustainable Development

- Consultation participants focused on climate change and asked for clear and more prominent provisions in the framework on how climate change will be integrated. Climate change should to be considered in the risk management approach.
- The World Bank should include human rights in the proposed framework. The core principles of Human Rights should be embedded throughout the entire project cycle. This may require conditionality. It certainly requires clear implementation rules. As most countries signed international human rights treaties, the World Bank should use its leverage in projects to promote the implementation of these commitments.
- The framework should also include provisions for freedom of speech.
- The philosophy underlying the World Bank’s direction on sustainability is not clear. Environmental standards should never be an add-on as growth is based on resource efficiency and sustainability. In order for the World Bank to achieve its development goals, growth must be sustainable.

3. *World Bank Environmental and Social Policy*

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4. *Environmental and Social Standard 1 (ESS1): Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts*

- The World Bank should clarify the proposed methodology for risk assessment and should include Human Rights assessment.
- Gaps in countries’ capacity to assess risk should be addressed before project approval. If Borrowers are to have greater responsibility with regard to assessment and monitoring, the Bank needs to improve its monitoring. Incentives and budget for monitoring would need to be in place before the proposed ramework can be approved.
- Climate change adaptation and reducing risks of natural hazards should be part of adaptive risk management.

5. *Environmental and Social Standard 2 (ESS2): Labor and Working Conditions*

- ESS2 should be explicitly linked to international conventions, especially those of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and should also provide provisions for countries that are not party to such international conventions.
- Contract workers should be covered by this standard.
- The standard should include freedom of association.

6. *Environmental and Social Standard 3 (ESS3): Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention*

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7. *Environmental and Social Standard 4 (ESS4): Community Health and Safety*

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8. *Environmental and Social Standard 5 (ESS5): Land Acquisition, Restriction on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement*

- It was noted that land issues and resettlement are complex especially in regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa, where many people live in slums. Security of tenure is an important issue for slum-dwellers and should be addressed in the framework.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When resettling people, they should not be resettled far away from the center of their town or village, so that they don't lose access to jobs. The definition of adequate resettlement should be clarified to ensure that the interests of those resettled are preserved.
<p>9. Environmental and Social Standard 6 (ESS6): Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The World Bank should keep up with other Multilateral Development Banks (MDB), especially with regard to carbon reporting, carbon accounting, and reporting absolute emissions. The World Bank should monitor the reports provided by Borrowers, as Borrowers' methodology may not always adhere to international good practice. The World Bank could suggest methodologies to Borrowers. • Borrowers should not only be required to report impacts on climate change, but should also be required to list their actions to mitigate risks. • Climate change should also be integrated into ESS1 and ESS5.
<p>10. Environmental and Social Standard 7 (ESS7): Indigenous Peoples</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue of Indigenous Peoples is highly contested. The World Bank needs to find clear provisions for addressing issues such as Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), land ownership, land acquisition, and Indigenous Peoples' engagement.
<p>11. Environmental and Social Standard 8 (ESS8): Cultural Heritage</p>
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<p>12. Environmental and Social Standard 9 (ESS9): Financial Intermediaries</p>
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<p>13. Environmental and Social Standard 10 (ESS10): Information Disclosure and Stakeholder Engagement</p>
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