



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

Phase 2 Consultations – Feedback Summary

Date: 31 October 2014

Location: Istanbul, Turkey

Audience: NGOs/CSOs and Private Sector

Overview and Key Issues Discussed:

Bank representatives welcomed the participants and provided an [overview](#) of the process undertaken to date on the review and update of the policies and presented the draft “Environmental and Social Framework: Setting Standards for Sustainable Development.” Bank representatives also noted that the President of the Bank has extended the consultation process into 2015. Participants were then invited to ask questions and to express their views.

Specific Feedback from Stakeholders

1. General Comments

Comments:

- Legislation and Bank requirements may not be overlapping.
- The Bank wants these requirements implemented in their projects but the reality is that implementation on the ground is not the same as on paper.
- While Turkey has good environmental legislation, it is not always followed; Bank standards apply to Bank projects, but for other activities, the government often does not listen to people. People also need to be better informed so they can provide input. We don’t know how to manage public awareness.
- Participants wished to know how the Bank can have influence in a country beyond the project level.
- Investors sometimes resist doing more than the law requires, and there’s a risk of investors going to other funding sources rather than undertaking incremental actions, such as consultations, that are required by the Bank.
- Stakeholder engagement can sometimes lead to undesired results, for example, enabling authorities to try to “blackmail” project implementers into meeting specific demands (such as for local hiring) by threatening to block projects.

Recommendations:

- The Bank should ensure that staff in implementing agencies have the capacity to implement the environmental and social requirements. These staff need to understand the framework. The Bank needs a certification system for implementing agencies, including consultants.

The Bank representatives thanked everyone for their inputs and encouraged participants to submit inputs in writing, in particular on topics that were the subject of much discussion during the consultation, **such as strategic environmental and social assessment and on biodiversity**.

The address for submitting feedback is:

<https://consultations.worldbank.org/forums/forum-review-and-update-world-bank-safeguard-policies>

Additional information, including links to the policies, fact sheets on the Framework and a Q&A, can be found at: <http://consultations.worldbank.org/consultation/review-and-update-world-bank-safeguard-policies>