



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

Consultation Meeting

New Delhi, India

April 6, 2013

Feedback Summary

A supplemental civil society meeting was held on April 6, 2013 in New Delhi, India. After a presentation by the World Bank Safeguards Review Team on the background, intended scope and process for the review, the floor was open for participants' comments and recommendations.

Sustainable Development

- Bank should support CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) initiatives that are now mandated by companies under Indian legislation
- How can the use of these funds be scaled up to use them effectively to support sustainable development
- A big concern is impacts on tribal populations from mining, coal and cement operations – they are under very high stress and this is leading to social problems and conflict
- Major impacts are occurring to groundwater aquifers, need more capacity, especially geologists and hydro geologists
- More work is needed for watershed conservation – water and land both need to be managed
- Use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is sometimes limited because of security concerns – especially in border areas
- 50% of the rural water infrastructure in India is not functional
- Water security is a serious issue- special study being done at the state level

Disability

- Disability is everywhere and the Bank needs to mainstream this issue into its approach to development
- Bank needs to support the inclusion of disabled persons into its policies and projects
- A large amount of public programs need to be made accessible and a non-discriminatory approach should be supported

- Disabled persons need to benefit from accessibility standards – there should be a universal design and accessibility standard
- Many speak of “green procurement” now need “universal design procurement” to support accessibility and non-discrimination
- International Disability Alliance is playing a major role
- Capacity development is needed to address disability issues – people are not aware of what is required and how it can be implemented – this is not being taught in schools of architecture and not required by Government counterparts
- Monitoring and evaluation need to have indicators on disability
- Do not need a separate system for the disabled – they need to be part of an inclusive system which allows disabled persons to benefit
- Bridges across roads need to be designed to assist access by the disabled
- The Indian disability law is not being properly implemented
- More work needs to be done on disability in India

Human and Wildlife Conflict

- Massive loss of habitat over the last 10 years is having a major impact on wildlife habitat and ecosystems
- Loss of forest cover continues each year and urban development is accelerating
- No one is looking at measures to strengthen access for wildlife – do designs work or not?
- Need guidelines to evaluate parameters leading to human and wildlife conflict and design standards to address this issue
- Recommends a conference on “green infrastructure”

Biodiversity and Ecosystems

- A national working group on Biodiversity and Ecosystems is looking at the value and cost of loss of biodiversity – need to link biodiversity with ecosystems
- Large number of small dams (less than 25 meters) is having an impact in India on ecosystems
- In India there are over 450 areas of significance to birds which are used as indicators for ecosystem status – 40% of these are protected
- Need much more work on establishment of protected areas including wetlands
- More engagement is needed with local communities to create awareness of the importance of biodiversity
- Ecosystem services is a new approach that should be more widely used
- Management of biodiversity and ecosystems would benefit from expanded use of GIS
- Need to look beyond protected areas and move to landscape management