



**Review and Update of the World Bank's Environmental and Social  
Safeguard Policies  
International Association for Impact Assessment  
Annual Conference 2013 (IAIA 2013)  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada**

**World Bank Group Special Meeting  
Consultation with IAIA Annual Conference Participants on the Review and  
Update of the World Bank Safeguard Policies**

**May 16, 2013**

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A consultation meeting with IAIA Annual Conference participants was held on May 16, 2013 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. After an overview presentation by the Bank on the safeguard policy review and update process, the following issues were raised:

- Should labor standards be incorporated into the Bank's safeguard policies? What is the role of the Bank as a Bretton Woods institution with regard to labor rights and standards?
- Should support for United Nations Human Rights conventions be addressed in the safeguard policies?
- Please note that the United Nations agencies are developing environmental assessment procedures through the work of the Environment Management Group whose Secretariat is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme.
- The Bank should consider the emerging Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) being developed by the United Nations system.
- Undertaking appropriate environmental and social monitoring is a major issue, including the need for adequate funding of monitoring.
- Free, Prior and Informed Consultation (FPIC) for Indigenous Peoples:
  - No constraints on the power to veto an action including the option to withdraw consent
  - Recognize that Indigenous Peoples are part of the ecosystem. They are "people of the land."
  - What would the power of veto really mean – need for an "open discussion"
  - Need to improve development outcomes above the "bare minimum"
  - Given this responsibility – what level of decision making would be appropriate?
- Important to address the need for donor harmonization in revision of the safeguard policies.

- Indigenous Peoples do not have adequate access to information about projects and who are financing them – notes an example for the case of a mega-project in Mexico, where Indigenous Peoples had no voice in determining project impacts.
- Sustainability needs to be supported, and positive outcomes achieved including in wind power and mining projects.
- Spatial mapping should be more broadly used to support an integrated approach to impact assessment.
- Cumulative impacts on larger systems are often not recognized at the community level.
- Strengthening countries' institutions and systems remains a priority for the Bank and other parties and is necessary to reduce the high transaction costs of parallel systems, as in the example of Ghana.
- How does the Bank approach project environmental and social classification?
- What place does Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEAs) and Environmental and Social Management Frameworks (ESMFs) have in the work of the Bank?
- Climate Change should be evaluated and addressed as a part of environmental assessment at all appropriate levels.
- The Bank should increase the use of Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- The Bank should place greater emphasis on impact effectiveness of its projects.
- The Bank Group has given great support to the work of the International Association for Impact Assessment; however, it is time for IAIA to reciprocate and engage more proactively with the Bank.
- World Bank and United Nations country offices have supported strengthening use of impact assessment in many countries.
- Bank should increase efforts for the analysis of conflict assessment and conflict management.
- Significant efforts have been given to innovation in social development at the field level; however, these need to be complemented by high level policy innovations.