

March 2016

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433
Sent via email to: safeguardconsult@worldbank.org

Re: Comments from Vegetarian Society (Singapore)

Dear Executive Directors of the World Bank,

Vegetarian Society (Singapore) – www.vss.sg - was founded in 1999. We have over 10,000 fans on FB and conduct a wide range of events every year. Our goal is to encourage humans to repair our relations with our fellow animals. As a step towards that, we encourage reduction of meat consumption. Did you know that humans consume more than 70 billion animals each year, and that is only land animals? Estimates for marine animals exceed 100 billions. Most of these animals are killed while still children.

Vegetarian Society (Singapore) requests the World Bank to include basic animal welfare standards in the upcoming Safeguard Policies. Your policies will provide guidelines for future public sector lending and investments around the world, particularly in areas such as Asia, where, unfortunately, animal agriculture is increasing, including the practice of live exports.

Animal agriculture is not only cruel and needless, it also worsens climate change and other ecological destruction. We hope the World Bank can improve the conditions under which animals suffer before they are killed. All the investments and projects that involve the use of animals for food should follow the Five Freedoms for Farm Animal Welfare:

- Freedom from hunger or thirst,
- Freedom from discomfort,
- Freedom from pain, injury or disease,
- Freedom to express natural behaviour,
- Freedom from fear and distress.

Your Safeguard Policies should explicitly mention the Five Freedoms and the animal welfare terms within the text.

We believe, as stated by Nobel Peace Prize winner, Dr Martin Luther King, Jr., that “The arc of history is long and jagged but bends toward justice.” Changes are being made in how humans treat our fellow animals. We see that in Singapore, e.g., in laws about how companion animals are treated and in people who are reducing or eliminating meat consumption. World Bank can help to champion this trend toward justice.

For all the above reasons, Vegetarian Society (Singapore) respectfully urges the World Bank to include into the Safeguard Policies text the standards that ensure basic animal welfare in all the investment projects you help to finance.

Sincerely,
Dr George Jacobs, President
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