



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

Consultation Meeting with Donor Agencies

Colombo, Sri Lanka, April 1, 2013

Feedback Summary

The consultation meeting with donor agencies was held on April 1, 2013 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. 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.

ISSUES & CHALLENGES IN THE APPLICATION OF THE SAFEGUARD POLICIES

- Even though there are policy changes, implementation has to be done effectively.
- Not enough time is spent on safeguards work in the field.
- More ground work is required when implementing safeguards.
- Supervision by Bank on a biannual basis is not sufficient for formal supervision.
- Policies on Pest Management and Dam safety require subject specific technical expertise, thus technical staff should be used to look at implementation aspects.
- Outreach and engagement is important.
- Safeguard policies remain too detailed to deal with some Development Policy Lending (DPL) which are delivered over short time periods.
- Climate change is a phenomenon still being debated, thus WB should be careful in making recommendations with regard to climate change.

ASPECTS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS POLICIES THE BANK CAN IMPROVE

- The new policy should be able to measure social and environmental outcomes.
- The new policies should be able to measure outcomes via an integrated approach.
- WB staff working on safeguards need to put more effort on Implementation Completion reporting and ensure good implementation practices are documented.
- WB can come up with a unified standard set of indicators to evaluate outcomes of IFC, World Bank and MIGA programmes/projects.
- WB should evolve its policies to fit DPLs as well.

COUNTRY SYSTEMS & CAPACITY BUILDING

- Issue on Disaster Management.
- There are many donors and the Governments' are free to select their donors thus way forward is to engage with these donor countries as well.
- WB has already met with some of the emerging donor countries and will continue to do so.

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE EMERGING AREAS

- Link the safeguard policies to the overall development objective and emphasize risk management.
- On climate change, the WB board has approved measures to mitigate and adapt climate change.
- All donor agencies should think about the time period over which one should evaluate the impact of a project.
- It would be important to measure environmental and social outcomes.
- The evaluation time frame of impacts should be addressed carefully given the various emerging issues such as climate change, etc.
- WB may need to take into account globalization or trans-boundary issues when dealing with some of the emerging areas that may be incorporated into the set of existing policies.
- WB's safeguard policies are for specific projects and for the Borrower country. But one needs to take into account that there are impacts on the non-borrower countries, other borders and cumulative aspects.
- The emerging areas should include natural disasters as a theme – this is very important in many developing counties in Asia. It would also be important to cover measures for addressing climate change especially adaptation and address labor issues.
- There is a need to breakdown Human Rights issues into elements of child labor and others that Governments are not too opposed to talking about.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS

- Even the large/new donors are now developing various safeguard criteria during project design/implementation; over time these will become established policies that recipient countries will have to adopt/adhere to.