



World Bank

First Phase of Consultations to Update Safeguards Policies

Meeting with Civil Society, Academia, and the Private Sector

Dakar – February, 1, 2013

Feedback Summary

[This summary is a translation in English from the original French version.]

The following are the participants' comments and questions:

I - Environment:

- Introduce a policy of harmonizing the carbon footprint of partner banks involved in World Bank projects (via an integrated management system of applicable ISO 14001 standards).
- Rephrase the term "Environmental policies" as "Sustainable development policies."
- Support the introduction of environmental programs into the curricula of African establishments, in particular the Senegalese university, in order to mitigate environmental challenges.
- Halt the financing of projects posing a high risk of destroying biodiversity and natural habitats.
- Have the World Bank and its borrowers assume their responsibilities in social and environmental matters.
- Conduct environmental evaluations at worksites financed with loans granted by the World Bank to the State.
- Reflect on how the World Bank can address the negative impact on the environment of certain State projects.
- Incorporate a digital component into environmental policies.
- Broaden environmental policies to include the concepts of sustainable development and "green business."

II - Social:

- Place the well-being of citizens at the heart of all projects.
- Build on the MDGs/SDGs (Millennium Development Goals/Sustainable Development Goals) to better align development strategies.
- Work toward restoring the trust of populations in the World Bank as an institution, revamp its image.
- Pursue a decentralized approach to grassroots consultation.

- Revise communications about World Bank-financed projects to make them more easily understood by beneficiary populations.
- Help citizens to access information on the subject of the allocation of public credits.
- Offer citizens some measure of control over policy making.
- Strengthen the World Bank's social component and expand it to other themes.
- Strengthen the policy regarding the care of vulnerable persons (women, the disabled, etc.).
- Bear in mind the diversity of its partners (civil society).
- Review the issue of the non-State actors' platform in order to empower this medium to better combat poverty/economic, political, social uncertainty.
- Involve local leaders in World Bank policies.
- Deepen the understanding of the World Bank Inspection Panel by its partners, facilitate its use by them (Dam and Safety).
- With respect to the concept of "indigenous" peoples in Africa, put the concept of "indigenous" peoples in the appropriate context in Africa (for example, when speaking of Pygmies).
- Reflect on the World Bank's capacity to raise the awareness of its partner enterprises with respect to the CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) component.

III – Safeguard policies:

- Humanize safeguard policies, without inordinately weakening them. Promote certain basic concepts relating to safeguard policies.
- Implement updated policies throughout and apply them to all types of loans.
- Make the implementation of safeguard policies effective, in particular among World Bank staff.
- Include the following aspects in the reform:
 - ecosystem services;
 - the evolution of the concept of Human Rights (with respect to Indigenous Peoples in Africa);
 - the displacement of populations affected by World Bank projects (compensation procedures);
 - property (land grabbing).
- Base the safeguard policies on partnership and adherence to international standards.
- More actively take citizens' interests into account.
- Organize the initiatives relating to implementation procedures (monitoring plans for mitigation - RAPs, Resettlement Action Plans).
- Simplify procedures relating to safeguard policies/introduce monitoring or evaluation mechanisms to make them faster (displaced populations and procurement).

- Introduce “discharge of transparency”/adherence to environmental standards during procurement (government contracts).

IV - Gender:

- Suggest harmonization between the World Bank and partner banks of common policies, to include the Gender component.
- Request the establishment of communications explaining to women the World Bank's policies and work concerning them or their towns.

V - International Standards and Employment

- Implement a policy ensuring adherence to international labor standards (ILO) by borrowers and include it in the investment conditionalities.
- Through safeguard policies, demonstrate concern for the worker (human being) before the environment (the surroundings).
- More actively take into account international laws and standards (guiding principles with respect to Human Rights).
- Bridge the gaps in the interactions between independent groups (Human Rights, Women, Workers, Youth, etc.).
- Improve communication between the World Bank and the major civil society actors and labor unions.
- Review the World Bank's position with respect to the OECD's guiding principles (the Human Rights aspect of business).
- Involve the relevant actors/targets (labor unions, etc.) in policies led by the World Bank, strengthen them.
- Encourage the development of processing industries in Africa.
- With regard to the displacement of populations, seek to revise standard OP. 4.12, Involuntary Resettlement to harmonize the United Nations' provisions and in so doing, build on the work of the AfDB.

VI - Training/Education

- Support civil society to make it stronger, better qualified, and more independent (especially financially) in order to achieve results.
- Strongly urge partners to change their training and employment strategies.
- Conduct an evaluation of the quality of university education currently available in Africa (overview).
- Finance field research aimed at capturing the “knowledge, know-how, and resources” of local populations (“put an end to the dictates of experts”).
- Organize training and information sessions aimed at educating/coaching stakeholders on the World Bank and its projects.
- Devise a surveillance/warning mechanism that integrates the research and which will allow for the evaluation of environmental risks, conflicts of interest or other issues.

- Request that the World Bank support the education sector.
- Acknowledge the need to develop the national languages.

VII - Mining Sector

- Introduce the requirement to conduct studies in principle as a prerequisite to the establishment on site of any extractive companies supported by the World Bank.
- Devise a means of achieving greater neutrality in environmental impact studies conducted in the sector.
- Assist with the mainstreaming of impact studies among the affected populations whose consent is required for the establishment of mining companies in their town.
- Recommend a review of the issue of compensation with respect to the mining code.
- Require that mining companies involved in World Bank-financed projects show evidence of a certain code of ethics with respect to the social component.