

**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 boarders and cumulative aspects.
* The emerging areas should include natural disasters as a theme – this is very important in many developing counties in Asia. Ii 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.