



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

### Phase 2 Consultations – Feedback Summary

**Date: 26 September 2014**

**Location: Tbilisi Georgia**

**Audience: Regional Government Representatives**

#### Overview and Key Issues Discussed:

Bank representatives welcomed the participants present in Georgia and via videoconference from Azerbaijan and Moldova. They provided an [overview](#) of the process undertaken to date on the review and update of the policies and presented the draft “Environmental and Social Framework: Setting Standards for Sustainable Development.” Participants were then invited to ask questions and to express their views.

<b>Specific Feedback from Stakeholders</b>
<b>1. General Comments</b>
<p><i>Clarifications:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant sought clarification on similarities and differences between the new Framework and EU guidelines and how these would be harmonized.</li> </ul>
<b>2. A Vision for Sustainable Development</b>
<b>3. World Bank Environmental and Social Policy</b>
<p><b>Environmental and Social Policy</b></p> <p><i>Clarifications:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When EBRD recently updated its E&amp;S Policy it deleted the requirement for a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) prior to preparation of a project and replaced it with the “lower key” concept of a Strategic Environmental and Social Review. Clarification was sought on what would be required, if anything, under the Bank’s Framework.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Environmental and Social Standard 1 (ESS1): Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts</b>
<p><i>Clarifications:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant sought clarification regarding reliance on national systems. To date, World Bank policies have prevailed. If there is a difference between Bank and Borrower requirements, clarity is needed on what steps will be taken.</li> <li>• Clarification was sought on the place strategic or sectoral environmental and social assessment would have in the new Framework.</li> <li>• A participant sought clarifications on the ESCP, in particular, how it would be implemented over time, what management responsibility there would be, and whether it would be regional, national or program specific.</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification was also sought on what status the ESCP would have, and by whom it would be adopted.</li> <li>• Clarification was sought on who would have responsibility for preparation of the ESCP.</li> </ul> <p><i>Recommendations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need for guidelines for preparation of the ESCP.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Environmental and Social Standard 2 (ESS2): Labor and Working Conditions</b></p>
<p><b>6. Environmental and Social Standard 3 (ESS3): Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention</b></p> <p><i>Recommendations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is not much information about non-hazardous municipal waste in the framework. Of course hazardous wastes are important, but non-hazardous municipal waste also is a problem. Establishing waste hierarchies is crucial for adequate management. Recommend that points be added to the standards regarding non-hazardous waste.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Environmental and Social Standard 4 (ESS4): Community Health and Safety</b></p>
<p><b>8. Environmental and Social Standard 5 (ESS5): Land Acquisition, Restriction on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement</b></p> <p><i>Clarifications:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification was sought on timing of preparation of resettlement action plans in the new framework.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Environmental and Social Standard 6 (ESS6): Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources</b></p> <p><i>Clarifications:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant sought clarification on the valuation of ecosystem services and noted that this was a sensitive issue, for example for forests, where there is no agreed methodology</li> <li>• Clarification was sought on how to define critical habitats and other sensitive areas.</li> <li>• Clarification was sought on difference between the Framework and the EU requirements, for example, whether habitat assessments would be required for projects affecting Natura 2000 areas (or, in the case of EU candidates/neighbors such as Georgia, in “Emerald Network” areas).</li> <li>• A participant sought clarification on whether the World Bank ESS6 would include the concept of “no-go” areas.</li> </ul> <p><i>Recommendations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If ecosystem services are included, a clear standard on their valuation is needed in order to be able to prepare environmental and social impact assessments.</li> <li>• It was strongly recommended that the Bank be part of decision making on how to implement biodiversity offsets to ensure that they are implemented appropriately.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. Environmental and Social Standard 7 (ESS7): Indigenous Peoples</b></p> <p><i>Clarifications:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant sought clarification on whether the World Bank had a list of Indigenous Peoples as was the case for EBRD, or whether it is determined on a project basis.</li> </ul>
<p><b>11. Environmental and Social Standard 8 (ESS8): Cultural Heritage</b></p>
<p><b>12. Environmental and Social Standard 9 (ESS9): Financial Intermediaries</b></p>

<b>13. Environmental and Social Standard 10 (ESS10): Information Disclosure and Stakeholder Engagement</b>

The Bank representatives thanked everyone for their inputs and encouraged participants to submit inputs in writing, in particular on topics that were the subject of much discussion during the consultation, such as strategic environmental and social assessment and on biodiversity.

The address for submitting feedback is:

<https://consultations.worldbank.org/forums/forum-review-and-update-world-bank-safeguard-policies>

Additional information, including links to the policies, fact sheets on the Framework and a Q&A, can be found at: <http://consultations.worldbank.org/consultation/review-and-update-world-bank-safeguard-policies>