



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

**Safeguards Consultation Meeting with Government Stakeholders
 at the World Bank Paris Office**

The consultation meeting held on December 3, 2012 was chaired by Julia Nielson, World Bank Acting Director for Europe. Participants were primarily from our main counterpart Ministries and Agencies in France (see Annex).

Comments and questions from the participants included the following:

- The Bank's effort to review and update its Safeguard Policies is to be welcomed. The goals would seem uncontroversial—but linking up clearly with other reforms within the Bank and elsewhere will be critical, to ensure that the process actually delivers the stated objectives.
- While the link to investment lending (IL) reform is evident, the link to the Bank's procurement reform needs to be more strongly articulated. The three reform processes (IL, Procurement, Safeguards) should be integrated if possible, since the main challenges (as the IEG pointed out) were in implementation—and implementation challenges are generally related to all three.
- France welcomes the interest in looking at human rights and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples, which seem to go in the same positive direction taken by countries in recent years to promote social rights through the ILO, the G20, and even the AFD (which was the first to address these issues) and the IFC (with its labor standards).
- How is the Safeguards review and update process related to the IFC Performance Standards? The IFC Performance Standards are part of the “context” of this process, and should be explicitly addressed.
- Will the Safeguards review and update cover Development Policy Lending (DPL) or only IL? Are there not environmental and social issues in programmatic/budget support and other non-IL lending?
- While social and environmental legislation has improved in many developing countries, the quality of these laws varies, as do countries' capacity to implement them. How will

the Bank take these variations into consideration? What is the real scope for expanding the use of country systems?

- Is the thrust or ambition of the Safeguards review and update to move from a “do no harm” approach towards “doing good”? Presumably, the eventual framework should be neither overly prescriptive nor purely risk-management in approach; differentiated approaches could be necessary depending on the sector or area. There should be strong “high-level principles” that would need to be respected, as well as scope for prescription when in-depth analyses indicate that this is necessary.
- The operational case for updating the Safeguard Policies is evident to bilateral agencies working, with the Bank or independently, to deliver complex investments in developing countries. Some agencies are reviewing their own policies internally, and a common or joint upgrading of agencies’ safeguard policies might have been envisaged to ensure that policies were coordinated and/or consistent among partners.
- Does the Bank envisage having a separate Safeguard Policy or some specialized guidance for dams?
- It is hoped that French interest and experience in public private partnerships and large infrastructure projects will inform the Safeguards review and update process.

Annex



The World Bank

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

Consultation Meeting – Participant List

Date: December 3, 2012

Venue: World Bank Paris Office (French government stakeholder meeting)

Total Number of Participants: 8

No.	Participant Name	Department/Division	Ministry/Agency Represented
1	Frédéric Glanois, Head of Office	ODA and Multilateral Development Institutions, Treasury Directorate-General	Ministry of Economy and Finance
2	Aurélien Billot, Deputy Head of Office	ODA and Multilateral Development Institutions, Treasury Directorate-General	Ministry of Economy and Finance
3	Catherine Garetta, Director	Cross-Operational Issues and Support	Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
4	Jean-Noël Roulleau, Manager	Operational Support for Social and Environmental Issues	AFD
5	Myriam Hammami, Officer for Bilateral and Multilateral Banks	External Relations	AFD
6	Raphaël Martinez, Head of Office for Multilateral Development Institutions	International Economic Affairs, Directorate-General for Global Affairs	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
7	Alison Laclau, Officer for World Bank and IMF	International Economic Affairs, Directorate-General for Global Affairs	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
8	Diane Beaulieu-Milisavljevic, Officer for Multilateral Development Banks	International Affairs	Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, and Energy