



**Review and Update of the World Bank’s Safeguard Policies
 Meeting with Nongovernmental Organizations
 Consultation Meeting with Non-governmental Organizations
 Beijing, China, March 14, 2013
 Summary**

A consultation meeting was held on March 14, 2013 with representatives from non-governmental organizations. 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’ input and comments.

Feedback from Stakeholders
1. Issues and challenges encountered in the application of the safeguard policies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing safeguard policies are good tools for development. But detailed guidelines are missing on how to implement these policies at the local and project levels. Consultations are often just within government, and affected communities are only “informed” afterwards. Local government should be given assistance in the preparation of detailed action plans to implement related policies within projects.
2. Aspects of the environmental and social safeguards policies that the Bank can improve to ensure that these policies continue to be an effective and efficient tool to achieve sustainable development and results on the ground.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to Physical Cultural Resources included in the Bank’s safeguard policies, in involuntary resettlement, special attention should be paid to the preservation of the intangible cultural heritage of the ethnic minority groups, including their language, costume and other unique features, to prevent them from being diluted after resettlement.
3. How the Bank can better support borrowers in their efforts to strengthen their systems and institutions with respect to environmental and social safeguards practices to yield more sustainable results on the ground.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To effectively implement the Indigenous Peoples policy, local government should be assisted in wide and transparent consultations to come up with concrete indicators to help implementation. These indicators will help local government and project implementation offices in the preparation of detailed mitigation plans and guidelines, including next steps, and an

implementation plan that is achievable, not just principles that are difficult to interpret and follow.

- Involuntary Resettlement should also have SMART indicators and sustainable arrangements, taking consideration of education and vocational training for the children of the affected people.
- Capacity building should be provided to borrower countries, especially to countries with low environmental and social development awareness and poor implementation capacity.

4. Examples of environmental and social assessment and risk management approaches (used by either public or private institutions) that the review should take into consideration.

- Development projects should be sensitive to cultural differences and diversity. This was brought up as lessons learned by a local firm involved in a project, where a Buddhist temple was destroyed, causing resentment among local communities and consequent halt of the project.
- Environmental/social assessment should be carried out in project areas, especially social risk assessment. It was suggested that both pre-appraisal and post-evaluation should be carried out.

5. Recommendations with respect of any of the emerging areas described in the paper (i.e., disabilities; labor and occupational health and safety; human rights, land tenure and natural resources; free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples; gender; and climate change).

- Free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples: should include aspects that strengthen thorough consultation with affected communities during project design and implementation.
- Climate change: the need to consider adverse impact on infrastructure projects with long project life, and projects located in geographic areas prone to impact from climate change.
- It is hoped that disability issues will be integrated into Bank policy, raising people's awareness and making Bank projects inclusive. Capacity building should be provided for Bank staff and partner institutions to raise awareness and ability to handle disability issues.
- A question was raised about availability of disaggregated data in China. China conducted sample surveys on disability in 1988 and 2006 but still lacks detailed data on disability due to different classification standards and lack of funding.
- Local community assessment should be carried out through wide consultation, especially for communities affected by project intervention.

6. Any additional comments or suggestions.

- It was recommended that the World Bank Group should lead dialogues on low carbon city development to address China's urbanization challenge and its global impact, and to promote Bank standards for others to follow.
- NGOs should be more involved in the whole process of Bank project management.
- The Bank could consider tripartite cooperation in South-South Cooperation to promote inclusion of disability.