

Factsheet: Proposed¹ Environmental and Social Standard 10:

Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

What is the proposed ESS10 about?

The proposed ESS10 recognizes that engagement with stakeholders is essential to achieving good sustainable development outcomes in projects. The draft ESS10 proposes that Borrowers should be required to conduct stakeholder engagement proportionate to the nature and scale of the project throughout the project life-cycle. Borrowers would be required to identify stakeholders and develop and disclose an appropriate stakeholder engagement plan. ESS10 sets out proposed requirements on how engagement should take place, including meaningful consultation; requirement for Borrowers to inform stakeholders of changes in the project that will impact them; and requirements for a grievance mechanism for resolution of stakeholder concerns.

Under the proposed World Bank Environmental and Social Policy, the World Bank would require the Borrower to ensure that sufficient information about the potential risks and impacts of the project is made available in a timely manner, and in an accessible place, and in a form and language understandable to project-affected parties and other interested parties so they can provide meaningful input into project design and mitigation measures. The World Bank would also require the Borrower to engage with stakeholders, including communities, groups or individuals affected by proposed projects, and with other interested parties, through information disclosure, consultation, and informed participation in a manner proportionate to the risks to and impacts on them. If approved, the Bank would have the right to participate in consultation activities to understand the concerns of project-affected parties, and how such concerns will be addressed by the Borrower in project design and mitigation measures in accordance with the ESS10.

What's new?

- **Enhanced stakeholder engagement during project preparation:** Under the proposed Standard, the Borrower would identify the various stakeholders. The Borrower would identify individuals and groups who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable. The Borrower would develop and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). A draft of the SEP would be disclosed. It would be tailored to take into account the main characteristics and interests of the stakeholders, and the different levels of engagement and consultation that will be appropriate for different stakeholders. The SEP would set out how communication with stakeholders will be handled throughout project preparation and implementation, including the grievance mechanism required.
- **Greater clarity on information disclosure:** For all projects, Borrowers would consult with stakeholders to identify issues and concerns in order to inform the environmental and social assessment and the design and implementation of the project. Disclosure of relevant project information helps stakeholders understand the risks, impacts and opportunities of the project.
- **Promotion of meaningful consultation:** If approved, the Borrower would undertake a process of meaningful consultation in a manner that provides stakeholders with opportunities to express their views on project risks, impacts, and mitigation measures, and allows the Borrower to consider and respond to them. Meaningful consultation would be carried out on an ongoing basis as the nature of issues, impacts and

¹ The content of the proposed Standard is for consultation purposes. It has not been endorsed by the Executive Directors of IBRD/IDA. The Board of Executive Directors will make the final decision on the content.

To review the proposed framework, including the full text of all ten standards, and provide feedback, please visit <http://consultations.worldbank.org/consultation/review-and-update-world-bank-safeguard-policies>

opportunities evolves. The consultation process with stakeholders would be undertaken in a manner that is inclusive and culturally appropriate.

- **Ongoing stakeholder engagement during project implementation:** It is proposed that the Borrower would provide ongoing information to the project-affected parties and other interested parties. This ongoing engagement would build upon the channels of communication and engagement established during the stakeholder engagement carried out as part of the environmental and social assessment process and reviewed periodically. If there are significant changes to the project that result in additional risks and impacts of concern to the project-affected parties, the Borrower would inform them how these risks and impacts are being addressed.
- **Systematic grievance mechanism:** If approved, the Borrower would respond to concerns of project-affected parties related to the project in a timely manner. For this purpose, the Borrower would provide a grievance mechanism, process or procedure to receive and facilitate resolution of stakeholders' concerns and grievances regarding the Borrower's environmental and social performance. Where possible, such grievance mechanism would utilize existing formal or informal grievance mechanisms, supplemented as needed with project-specific arrangements.

What stays the same?

- ESS10 consolidates the provisions on consultation, information disclosure and grievance redress that are currently set out in several different policies.