

Consultation on the Consultation Plan

Date: September 23, 2009

Venue: 1850 Eye Street, Washington, DC Room I-1-200, 1:30 – 3:00pm

Participants

Bank Information Center (BIC) - Binta Ceesay

Birdlife International - Gary Allport

Center for International Environment Law (CIEL) - Anne Perrault

Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) - Daniel Fromm

Indian Law Resource Center - Leonardo Crippa

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) - Jill Blockhus

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - Bill Mansfield

World Wildlife Fund USA (WWF US) - Herve Lefevre

World Bank Group

- **Environment Department**
Michele De Nevers, Senior Manager
Kulsum Ahmed, Lead Environmental Specialist
Yewande Awe, Senior Environmental Engineer
Jeff Brez, Senior Communications and Knowledge Management Officer
Alejandra Alvarez, Program Analyst
Rafael Hernandez, Program Analyst
Amanda MacEvitt, Environment and Climate Change Web Editor
- **Energy Department**
Leonardo Mazzei, Development Communications
- **Legal Department**
Charles di Leva, Chief Counsel
Johanna Van Tilburg, Senior Counsel
- **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**
Lakhdeep Babra, Senior Environmental Specialist
Edmond Mjekiqi, Strategy Analyst

Session Summary

1. Question (CIEL): How does the Environment Strategy relate to the Investment Lending Reform? What is the link of the Environment Strategy to the IFC Performance Standards (PS)?

The Strategy is not a policy, while the Investment Lending (IL) Reform is a policy measure. The Environment Strategy will include key areas to focus on and key issues that need to be addressed with implementation methods to be spelled out through specific business plans and other policies in the regions and elsewhere in the Bank Group. So there is a linkage, but the processes are independent. [see <http://go.worldbank.org/QE64AT0D50> for more information about IL Reform)

Regarding the IFC, the 2001 strategy was a World Bank strategy: for the first time, this 2010 strategy will be a World Bank Group Environment Strategy, including IFC and MIGA as active partners, to ensure that approaches are harmonized in supporting clients in achieving environmental sustainability, including when it comes to the very important role of the private sector. The IFC is also now undertaking a review of its Performance Standards and Disclosure Policy. As mentioned before the Strategy is not a policy and it is also important to remember that the PSs in particular have an ownership (e.g., Equator Banks, Private Sector Companies) that give them a dimension beyond the World Bank Group. While these standards, policies and strategies are central to IFC's sustainability agenda and thus may affect the Environment Strategy, the Environment Strategy is as such a separate process.

2. Question (Birdlife International):

a. How are regional consultations going to work? How will the participation be in developing countries? How will it be decided who participates and who will be funded? Who will make these decisions?

Bank regional staff are designing different approaches to consultations that are relevant to each respective World Bank region. The staff in the Region will invite participants and fund certain participants as appropriate and as resources allow at each of the consultations they organize. The Regional Consultation Plans will be posted on the web site with a focal person to contact. Comments on these will be welcome and all comments through the web site will be sent to Regional Focal points and shared with staff throughout the Bank Group. Each single consultation event will also be posted on the website with contact information for a focal person in order to allow requests of participation in a consultation. We will aim to give as much advance notice as possible on the website – 2 weeks is the minimum amount of notice acceptable. We also plan to post consultation feedback summaries for each consultation on the website and invite comments on these through the website.

b. How will information be provided to groups that don't understand the documents that will be posted?

Much thought and consideration has gone into finding ways of making the consultation process as inclusive and transparent as possible. We are open to suggestions on how to reach people that will not be reached through the web site or standard methods. In previous consultations (Strategic Framework on Development and Climate Change) we have posted "easy read" versions of certain documents for stakeholders such as youth. We are considering the necessity of creating such materials for this consultation.

c. Will stakeholders have an opportunity for a final voice on the draft of the strategy after it goes through senior management and before it goes to the Board?

We will see if it is possible to show the final draft that goes to the Board with the track changes in order for stakeholders to see what was changed. Usually big changes are not made at that point. For example in the Strategic Framework for Climate Change process, some language was changed, but nothing too substantive.

[relative current disclosure policy paragraphs included below for information]

13. The Bank prepares Sector Strategy Papers (SSPs) that review Bank experience in a given sector and set out the Bank's strategy for future work in the sector. SSPs are publicly available once they have been discussed by the Executive Directors and finalized. In addition, the draft Concept Note and the Consultation Plan for an SSP under preparation, as well as the draft SSP, are publicly available upon notification to the Executive Directors of such proposed disclosure.

14. The Concluding Remarks of the Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors on their discussion of an SSP are publicly available, unless the Executive Directors decide otherwise.

87. The [above-mentioned] principle relating to the preservation of the integrity of the deliberative process also applies to the Bank's own decision making processes. Thus, internal documents and memoranda written by Executive Directors and their Alternates and Senior Advisors, by the President of the Bank, and by Bank staff to their colleagues, supervisors, or subordinates are considered confidential and not publicly available.

Link to the current disclosure policy documents:

<http://go.worldbank.org/32ZO2P03Z0>

Link to Disclosure Policy Review & Global Consultations page:

<http://go.worldbank.org/FSBLXEWJ50>

3. Question (BIC):

a. What will be done to ensure that everyone has a voice, especially the marginalized groups or women, who may not have the opportunity to speak in certain fora?

We have been grappling with this issue of how to ensure voice to such groups in a cost-effective and meaningful way. When consulting with civil society, we will make efforts to include and reach out to women's groups as well as faith-based groups as one way to ensure that we receive perspectives at the grass roots / community-level. We will also reach out to indigenous peoples groups, as we have in the past. Other suggestions are welcome. We will continue thinking about this.

[the Africa region has contacted BIC directly to provide input on specific civil society organizations to invite to an upcoming session]

- b. Suggestion: It is important to send feedback on what was said in each consultation in a short time frame (a week), and to post events with adequate amount of time in order for participants to plan their attendance.**

Consultations will be announced a minimum of two weeks ahead of time. If not, these will not be called consultations. Our aim will be to post session summaries for each consultation session within 5 working days of the session. We have also issued guidelines to consultation session organizers to send the session summaries to all participants as soon as they are ready, with an invitation to provide additional comments if necessary directly through the website.

4. Question (Nature Conservancy):

- a. For Analytical Work 2 (Rebalancing the Environment Agenda, Climate Change and Core Environmental Challenges) and 3 (Assessment of WBG Performance in Implementing 2001 Environment Strategy) it seems that there is already a wealth of material to draw from, including the WDR. How much will be drawn from this and how much further will it be taken?**

The Analytical Work will draw on the WDR, the Strategic Framework on Development and Climate Change, and a host of other analytical and review work done by the Bank and by other institutions. There is a lot out there. The idea here is to take advantage of all that has been done and see if we can build a consensus among stakeholders around what the priorities are and what the Bank's role should be. This phase of the consultations is a very open dialogue, and "how much further" and in what direction the analytical work goes is a work in progress. Concept Notes for each piece will be posted externally by November 30.

- b. What are the linkages between this and other strategies?**

The WBG Urban Strategy has just been finalized and the Energy Strategy Consultation process will begin in January of 2010. There are really several strategies that are linked in theory, and that are in different phases of development – some done (such as transport and urban). Our approach is to learn from these teams and maximize synergies. We have internal processes in place to make sure that the environment, energy, social and urban strategy teams are in close contact and that the linkages are clarified and strengthened as appropriate.

- c. What is the relationship between CODE and Board?**

CODE is a standing committee within the Board: Committee on Development Effectiveness. One of its functions is to monitor the quality and results of high priority issues related to the implementation sector and thematic strategies. So it reviews a draft strategy and reports to the full Board, making any recommendations.

5. Question (World Wildlife Fund)

- a. Stakeholders are being asked to mobilize our constituencies and resources to actively participate in these consultations. We want to know what the Bank has learned through implementation of the 2001 Strategy and how it intends to make a difference with the 2010 Strategy?**

The answers to those specific questions will be addressed through analytical work that is part of the process. We hope that stakeholders will engage in that aspect of the consultations as well. In general, the consultation process is also a way to revitalize and renew relations and connections with key stakeholders and discuss the role of the Bank Group. The level of ambition for this WBG Environment Strategy is high internally, and we

will be making efforts to display that level of ambition through the consultations by reaching out, consulting and reporting back in a very transparent and inclusive manner.

6. Question (CIEL):

b. Will the new strategy make a difference?

The strategies have implications for WBG operations even if they are used as a reference book; they guide lending policies, establish if there is a need for rebalancing the matrix (i.e. should the Bank continue with country driven approaches or should there be more of a balance?), etc.. It is true that after some years pass the Strategy itself becomes much less visible and less known to staff, but it is guiding work and policies. The consultation process is a very important priority setting exercise for a big institution. It is very meaningful.

c. Will there be an effort to consult with other International Organizations?

There is an MDB Forum that meets a few times a year and the Environment Strategy will be shared with them. It is common practice to reach out to the UN agencies, bilateral and other IOs as well – and this consultation will be no exception.

d. If the Consultations are done in regions, will there be an effort to consult on global issues?

There will be regional consultations in the regions themselves with client countries, and consultations in donor countries as well as global consultations in international fora – in all of these settings efforts will be made to reach out to a range of stakeholders and discuss a range of issues. Global issues feature in the Concept Note and will be discussed, probably, at every consultation session – albeit to differing degrees.

7. The WRI Report from 2006 mentioned the gaps between WB environment staff and staff implementing projects. Will the strategy focus on this issue in any way?

There is a piece of analytical work that will look at goals of the last strategy and see what worked and what did not work. Has the Bank gone too far in being country-led, country-driven and country-budgeted? Should there be more balance in this? What are the outcomes of SDN Integration (bringing together the Infrastructure departments and the Environment and Social departments within the Bank)? The issue of the role of environment staff and staff implementing projects would certainly be a focus not only of that specific piece of work but also when considering “implementability” for all aspects of the final strategy.

8. Question (Indian Law Resource Center):

a. What is the position of the WBG in terms of Indigenous Peoples (IP) and land, natural resources and governance, etc?

An update of the Social Development Strategy is being undertaken. That Strategy is the medium through which matters addressing indigenous peoples are addressed. This will be conveyed to the regions.

Link to information on WB policy on Indigenous Peoples:

<http://go.worldbank.org/DIGVWPWG10>

b. In the regions, is there any particular approach in terms of IPs?

In previous consultations – including on the Strategic Framework for Development and Climate Change – consultations were held with indigenous peoples representatives in a variety of fora, from multistakeholder sessions in the regions, to specific meetings with only indigenous peoples representatives in the regions as well as in Washington D.C. We anticipate a similar approach.

9. Question (Bank Information Center):

a. Does the Board of Executive Directors “approve” the Strategy?

The Board “endorses” the Strategy.

b. In looking at Safeguard Policies, will there be a tendency to increase Country Safeguard Systems in the Bank’s operations?

The Use of Country Systems under OP 4.00 was established as a Pilot Program. To date, countries in which the UCS has been explored to be used where there is equivalence with at least one of the safeguard policies include Brazil, Croatia, Jamaica, India, Romania, South Africa and Tunisia. The piloting work is continuing and a report on experience with OP 4.00 will be presented to the World Bank Board for them to determine how to go forward with the UCS.

Link to information on “Piloting the Use of Borrower Systems to Address Environmental and Social Safeguard Issues in Bank-Supported Projects:

<http://go.worldbank.org/GUVKVVUD70>