

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS: CSOs, NGOs, DONORS AND MEDIA

Location of consultation: Santanno House, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Date: November 5, 2009

Participants:

See Annex below

World Bank participants and role:

Fernando Loayza	Facilitator
Mustapha Sundifu Katta	Rapporteur
Fatu Karim-Turay	Logistics Support

How did the process fit into ongoing country dialogue (if relevant; for international meetings, please explain how it fit into the topic of that meeting)?

The World Bank country office in Sierra Leone has identified environment as an important cross-cutting issue in the dialogue with the country. To be relevant, however, environmental issues in Sierra Leone have to be linked with economic growth that is the overriding priority of the country with almost two thirds of its population living in extreme poverty. Environmental services like ecotourism and carbon finance through reduced deforestation and degradation (REDD) are seen as major opportunities for Sierra Leone. The Bank and the donor community's assistance are needed for seizing these opportunities. If framed in the context of strengthening the quality growth like preventing natural disasters such as landslides, environmental protection is seen also as a priority. However, an environment strategy for Sierra Leone that addresses these issues comprehensively is yet to be prepared. Accordingly, the formulation of such an strategy is among the important issues in the dialogue between the government and the Bank. In this context, in spite of its focus on the global environment strategy of the World Bank Group, the consultation contributed to this dialogue by raising awareness on the global relevance of some of Sierra Leone environmental most pressing problems (i.e., deforestation, industrial pollution, urban pollution, etc.) and the need for addressing them more comprehensively.

What were the key issues/themes raised by participants?

- Assistance in lifting out of poverty millions of people living in developing countries must continue being acknowledged as the core development challenge of the World Bank Group to which the new Environment Strategy should contribute to achieve. Environmental and social protection in the Bank's support to developing countries should focus on alleviating poverty.

- The Bank assistance in helping developing countries, particularly Sierra Leone, to achieve environmentally sustainable development should concentrate on (i) education or awareness raising on environmental risks; (ii) capacity building to enforce environmental regulations, improve planning capacity especially at the local level, and enhance local human capital to develop and implement development projects; and, (iii) diffusion of knowledge and technology to seize opportunities like access to emerging carbon markets.
- The global public goods agenda should be linked to the local needs of the people. For example, mitigation of climate change should be responsive to the needs of and benefit communities working in conservation of forests.
- It is critical to involve local communities and young people in the national development agenda, environmental management and the management of the global commons. The Bank should ensure that funds provided to governments for development, reduction of carbon emissions, protection of biodiversity, etc. reach local communities and create employment opportunities for young Sierra Leoneans rather than for expatriates.
- Safeguards are necessary for private and public projects but the focus must be on capacity building rather than on conditionality of loans. Capacities for environmental management should be assessed not only in the public but also in the private sector. Local communities must participate in environmental monitoring and supervision.

Respondent Type	Consultation Response ¹	Preliminary World Bank Group Response* (may be addressed in final reporting back)
<p>1. The World Bank Group is a relatively small source of finance for major economic transformation in developing countries. What should the role of the Bank be in helping developing countries to address the challenges and opportunities they face in achieving environmentally sustainable development?</p>		
<p>Donors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide strategic assistance and knowledge to help poor countries protect the environment especially from unbridled private sector exploitation ▪ Put poverty at the center of the analysis of environmental strategies. ▪ Funding mechanisms that are available to the poorest groups should be flexible and tailored to their capacity. ▪ Responsibility in cleaning up polluted global common goods must be matched with accountability. ▪ Support countries to develop their country environmental strategies ▪ Develop country environmental strategies where country specific priorities are measured and weighed against cluster/regional benchmarks. ▪ Environmental mainstreaming is critical for the success of the new WBG's Environment Strategy. 	
<p>Media</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assist in building human and institutional capacities. ▪ Provide resources for environmental management 	

¹ Summary of main points raised. All participants and stakeholders are invited to send more detailed comments via the website. Please provide your name, title and organization if you would like your comments to be posted on the external consultations website.

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	<p>directly to grassroots organizations and the rural poor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support developing countries to benefit from carbon markets for forest conservation. 	
Civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Bank must be more active on rural migration and urbanization issues. 	
Local governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The World Bank should conduct comprehensive environmental assessments to take into account population growth and social pattern changes in urban areas. 	
<p>2. The World Bank Group has worked to become a country/client driven organization. What should be the balance in the Bank Group's role between addressing country/client specific priorities and the global public goods agenda?</p>		
Donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote global cooperation for managing global risks and encourage accountability of countries polluting global common goods. 	
Civil Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing countries contributing less to global warming need the Bank to focus on more country specific priorities such as deforestation and sanitation challenges. • Raise awareness on environmental issues. • More funds for technological development. • Apply a "holistic approach" in project development. • Build capacities for environmental management at all levels. 	

Respondent Type	Consultation Response ¹	Preliminary World Bank Group Response* (may be addressed in final reporting back)
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop local capacities for environmental management. • Expatriates are ultimately the beneficiaries of funds for development projects. This situation must change. 	
3. What should be the role of IFC and MIGA be in helping private sector stakeholders to achieve higher levels of performance in pursuing environmental sustainability?		
Local governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide funding for private sector clients to build environmental management partnerships with other stakeholders. • Stop attaching stiff conditions to loans. • Involve communities in private supported projects • Assess environmental management capacity of the private sector 	
Donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguards are necessary • Focus on monitoring and supervision • Enhance capacities of local governments • Involve communities and local councils in projects 	
Civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create job opportunities for young people • Enhance capacity 	
4. How can the WBG put in place a systematic approach to assess environmental sustainability in sector portfolios?		
Donors		
5. How should short term and long term trade-offs between development and environmental sustainability be balanced?		
[Government]		

Respondent Type	Consultation Response ¹	Preliminary World Bank Group Response* (may be addressed in final reporting back)
[Legislature]		
[Representatives from Civil Society]		
[Private sector]		
[Media]		
[Add rows as necessary]		
6. Any other issues?		
[Government]		
[Legislature]		
[Representatives from Civil Society]		
[Private sector]		
[Media]		
[Add rows as necessary]		

Annex: List of Participants

First name	Last name	Organization
Hassan	Bangura	CCSL
Samuel B.	Conteh	New Citizen Press
Beatris	Fofanah	UMC Women
Alphonso	Manly	National Youth Coalition
Samuel	Mansaray	GEMS
Festus	Margai	Global Sovereignty
Mohamed	Massaquoi	Concord Times
Sulaiman	Parker	Freetown City Council
Sylvanus	Pratt	Ministry of Works
Paul	Sengeh	UNICEF
Samuel	Serry	New Citizen
Alusine	Sesay	Premier News
Housainou	Taal	WFP
Sallieu	Tejan Jalloh	For Di People Newspaper