

Environment Strategy 2010 CONSULTATIONS



STAKEHOLDER GROUP (S): TFESSD REFERENCE GROUP

Location of consultation: Washington, DC

Date: November 17, 2009

Participants (please attach list of participants):

Trust Fund for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development (TFESSD) Reference Group (Norwegian and Finnish donors)

World Bank Participants and Role:

Yewande Awe, Senior Environmental Engineer, Environment Department, Presenter of Environment Strategy

Kulsum Ahmed, Lead Environmental Specialist, Environment Department, Chair

Rasmus Heltberg, Senior Social Protection Economist, Social Development, Program Manager, TFESSD

Jeff Brez, Senior Communications and Knowledge Management Officer, Environment Department

Alejandra Alvarez, Program Analyst, Environment Department

Payton Deeks, Program Analyst, Environment Department

Independent Evaluation Group (IEG)

Cheryl Gray, IEG, Presenter of IEG's findings on Environment Sustainability at the Bank.

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 TFESSD Reference Group was chosen for this consultation because they are a group engaged specifically on environment issues, know the World Bank Group very well, and can provide a critical perspective.

What were the key issues/themes raised by participants?

- It is good that the WBG is consulting extensively at an early stage in the strategy development.
- Is the shift from 'doing no harm' to 'doing good' coming too early? Has mainstreaming of the WBG portfolio been completed?
- It is essential to approach the Strategy from a client country's viewpoint to promote ownership and informed policy-making. Donors pushing the agenda can be undermining. When the special funding runs out, then what?
- The Results Framework approach and the indicators are a good part of the strategy: their development should be addressed early on in the process.
- This seems like a golden opportunity for in-house coordination with other strategies. To what extent is environment integrated with the others, and how do you plan a coherent follow-up. Should there be an ESSD strategy, combining with environment, social, energy and poverty, or just one Sustainable Development Strategy?



- Focus on mainstreaming is good. There is a need to be cautious not to mainstream away the environment

The Reference Group appreciates being invited to comment early in the process and agreed to discuss the Environment Strategy again in June 2010 at the meetings in Helsinki, as well as earlier in Oslo.



Respondent Type	Consultation Response ¹	Preliminary World Bank Group Response* (may be addressed in final reporting back)
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?		
Donor	The development agenda is too donor driven: the WBG should help to rebalance it to enhance national and local level ownership. Donors pushing the agenda can undermine potential impacts on the ground. IDA is a good arena to communicate but policy dialogue still needed.	
Donor	WBG has not been able to incorporate environmental stewardship into governance and should play a greater role in this.	
Donor	Country ownership is crucial. When the special funding runs out, then what?	
Donor	The WBG should help the development community to understand the impact that the climate change agenda is having on the environment agenda and ensure that important core environmental issues are not lost.	
Donor	The WBG should work on increasing the demand for better environmental governance.	
Donor	The WBG should put more thought into effectively communicating the linkages between development and environmental impacts.	
Donor	The WBG should be clear about its level of ambition in applying its Safeguards Policies, for example in the Infrastructure sector (realistic ambition level and expectations of stakeholders need to match)	

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.

Respondent Type	Consultation Response ¹	Preliminary World Bank Group Response* (may be addressed in final reporting back)
Donor	Industrialization and ecosystem services are two important areas in which the Bank Group should engage.	
2. The World Bank Group has worked to become a country/client driven organization. What should be the balance in the Bank's Groups role between addressing country/client specific priorities and the global public goods agenda?		
Donor	The WBG should build analytical capacity at the local level to inform policy making and implementation.	
Donor	The role of environmental institutions and governance is a major obstacle—stewardship has not been integrated into country plans. SEAs are important but only part of the answer.	
Donor	G-77 countries do not wish to adapt to climate change by lending. How will the WBG respond to this?	
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?		
Donor	The IFC and WBG need to work together more closely on issues such as environmental health where industry and the private sector play such an important role.	
4. How can the WBG put in place a systematic approach to assess environmental sustainability in sector portfolios?		
Donor	The Results Based Framework approach and the indicators are crucial and need to be an integral part of the strategy, and should be addressed early in the current consultation process.	

Respondent Type	Consultation Response ¹	Preliminary World Bank Group Response* (may be addressed in final reporting back)
Donor	There needs to be integration and coordination in the implementation of various in-house WBG strategies. They should not be “stand alone”.	
Donor	In order to better achieve mainstreaming, is it time for a single strategy to encompass environment, social issues, poverty and energy?	
Donor	The Environment Department is doing a lot of useful analytical work, but needs to ensure that colleagues from the sectors find it useful and applicable to their work and are incentivized to use it. Also it is essential to bring the Country Directors into this discussion.	
Donor	In addition to mainstreaming, there is a need for internal watchdogs. There should be more explicit focus on mainstreaming as well as on internal systems to monitor progress of mainstreaming efforts.	
5. How should short term and long term trade-offs between development and environmental sustainability be balanced?		
Donor	The new strategy should remain flexible and be open to new emerging issues to allow the Bank to respond innovatively and effectively – and quickly.	
Donor	There should be policy dialog with countries where there are budget support mechanisms.	
7. Any other issues?		
Donor	The issue of mainstreaming both environment and gender into sector portfolios should be a point for discussion during the IDA 16 process.	
Donor	The donors are impressed by the extensive consultations that are being undertaken and are pleased to give comments now as well as later on the strategy.	

Respondent Type	Consultation Response ¹	Preliminary World Bank Group Response* (may be addressed in final reporting back)
Donor	The participants agreed to discuss the environment strategy again in June 2010 at the Helsinki TFESSD meetings. They would also welcomed an earlier consultation possibly in Oslo.	

Annex – List of Participants

Trust Fund for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development (TFESSD) Reference Group

Gunnar Boe
Ingjerd Haugen
Vedis Vik
Eva Klove
Anita Kelles-Viitanen
Johan Tingulstad
Sophie Kristoffersen
Maren Aase
Dan Banik
Elina Levaniemi
Ronald Wiman
Matti Nummelin
Timo Voipio
Olli Kantanen
Hans Olav Ibrekk

