

STAKEHOLDER GROUP (S): GOVERNMENT

Location of consultation: The Hague, Netherlands

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Participants:

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World Bank Participants and Role:

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What were the key issues/themes raised by participants?

OECD countries are a big driver of environmental problems and need to be an integral part of the WBG's approach to achieving environmental sustainability in WBG client countries (change in OECD countries will lead to change in developing countries).

The Strategy needs to be explicit about what the ends are and what the means are: if growth is what is necessary to reduce poverty and by corollary solve environmental problems, this should be the major focus.

Barriers to environmentally sustainable investments such as early financing for Environmental Impact Assessments (the lack of which reduces small scale hydro opportunities and subsequent economic growth) must be addressed.

WBG should be a "green bank" that sets the standard for the 21st Century. Environment should not only to be seen as a trade-off, but also as an opportunity.

The WBG must begin to provide consistent energy figures, in a transparent manner to underpin its "green promises". In addition, it needs to concentrate on green energy and phase out subsidizing fossil fuel generation.

The Bank's country directors should be considered a major strategic focus of this strategy as they influence the country level activities of the Bank – they need to work harder to promote cleaner solutions to development.

The Environment Department needs to be ambitious both in what the Strategy aims to achieve as well as in reaching out across the institution to achieve maximum support for the new Strategy and maximize ownership among staff.

Lessons of the World Bank Group's 2008 Internal Evaluation Group (IEG) report should be carefully considered, particularly with respect to improving coordination with other international organizations.

Respondent Type	Consultation Response ¹	Preliminary World Bank Group Response* (may be addressed in final reporting back)
1. What should the role of the WBG be in helping developing countries in achieving environmentally sustainable development?		
Government	The WBG needs to pay more attention to monitoring of environmental sustainability and improving extracting and sharing lessons learned in this area. To achieve better monitoring internal processes will need to be evaluated (through the analytical work) and properly addressed.	
Government	The WBG needs to cooperate and coordinate more closely with other partners including UNEP, FAO, GEF, UNDP moving forward.	
Government	Close attention needs to be paid to the 2008 IEG report recommendations in crafting the new Strategy.	
Government	OECD countries are a big driver of environmental problems and need to be an integral part of the approach to achieving environmental sustainability in WBG client countries (change in OECD countries will lead to change in developing countries).	
Government	More attention should be paid to patterns of consumption and changing behaviors – the Concept Note is very heavy on policy and production to the exclusion of consumption issues.	
Government	Barriers to environmentally sustainable investments such as early financing for EIA (the lack of which reduces small scale hydro opportunities) should be addressed.	
Government	The WBG should look closely at the New York Process for environmental governance and UNEP's assessment work and determine where there are opportunities for bridging the assessments to an action agenda, including at the country level.	
2. What should the role of IFC and MIGA be in helping private sector stakeholders address environmental sustainability?		
Government	IFC and MIGA need to share their lessons learned with the Bank from the early stages of strategy development.	

¹ Summary of main points raised. All participants and stakeholders are invited to send more detailed comments, or rectifications to this summary if deemed necessary, 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)
3. What should be the balance in the Bank Group's role in addressing country/client- specific priorities and global public goods agendas?		
Government	The Strategy should focus more on identifying opportunities and methodologies for win-win approaches (green economy) and not only on the need for identifying trade-offs.	
Government	The Strategy needs to be explicit about what the ends are and what the means are: if growth is what is necessary to reduce poverty and by corollary solve environmental problems, this should be the major focus.	
4. How can the WBG put in place a systematic approach to assess environmental sustainability in sector portfolios?		
Government	The Concept Note presents an approach/vision that appears "business as usual" and could be too "sectoral," bringing with it a risk of a "silo approach". Social, environmental and economic sustainability need to be linked and interlinked through the Environment Strategy.	
Government	Rather than mainstreaming, the Strategy should take a more ambitious, proactive approach and make "sustainability commitments".	
Government	As part of a sustainability target, there should be a phase out of fossil fuels.	
Government	The WBG must begin to provide consistent energy figures, in a transparent manner to underpin its "green promises."	
Government		
5. How should short term and long term trade-offs between growth and environmental sustainability be balanced?		
Government	The Strategy should focus more on identifying opportunities and methodologies for win-win approaches (green economy) and not only on the need for identifying trade-offs.	
6. Any other issues?		
Government	The Concept Note presents a very inward looking strategy approach – to be effective the Strategy must have an outward looking approach.	
Government	How effective has the 2001 strategy implementation been?	
Government	Make use of the research of other development organizations such as the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).	