

**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION - ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY CONSULTATIONS
CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, FEBRUARY 2, 2010**

STAKEHOLDER GROUP (S): Government representatives (ministry of environment, ministry of finance) from several small island developing states (Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Jamaica, Grenada, Dominica, Dominican Republic and Bahamas); representatives from international NGOs (The Nature Conservancy); and other donors (UNEP, KfW).

Location of consultation: Antigua, West Indies

Date: February 2, 2010

Participants:

See Annex below

World Bank Participants and Role:

Anjali Acharya (Sr. Env Specialist, LCSEN): Facilitator, presenter

Marea Hatzioilas (Sr. Env Specialist, ENV): Facilitator

Other World Bank staff: Jocelyne Albert (LCSSD), Dinesh Aryal (LCSEN), Stefano Pagiola (LCSSD), Enos Esikuri (LCSEN): Participating and helping respond to questions.

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 selection of this consultation was opportunistic, taking advantage of a multi-country, multi-donor meeting for the OECS Sustainable Financing and Management of Protected Areas Project in Antigua. Attending this meeting for discussing project design and preparation were several government representatives from the ministries of environment, finance from 9 small island developing states; representatives from local and international NGOs; and other donors (UNEP, UNDP, KfW). While the topic of the project was focused on financing of protected areas in these countries, the consultation meeting broadened the discussion to other environmental issues (such as biodiversity conservation, climate change, solid waste management, and disaster risk management).

What were the key issues/themes raised by participants?

The discussion session was participatory, lively and generated a lot of comments and questions relating to the Bank's Environment Strategy, and the larger role that the Bank plays in addressing environmental issues, especially in the Caribbean. The main issues raised by the participants included:

- Need for a specific environmental strategy for small island developing states (SIDS)
- Dissatisfaction with needing to comply with complex Bank policies (specifically procurement) which are seen to be detrimental to project implementation
- Need for accountability by the Bank: what has been achieved since the 2001 strategy?
- World Bank falling behind on the climate change agenda
- Bank projects seen to focus on outputs and disbursements, rather than impacts.
- New Environment Strategy opportunity for Bank to restructure own systems
- Bank should work with country systems, to lower transaction costs

Detailed responses from participants are summarized under the following key questions.

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?

- Strong perception that while the Bank may recognize client differentiation, there is a disconnect between this recognition and actual Bank work. The SIDS (Small Islands Developing States) agenda is a unique one... and one that the Bank is not recognizing
- Need for a SIDS specific overlay to Bank work in the Caribbean, recognizing the socio-cultural and environmental realities in these Caribbean countries. The kinds of solutions that might work in larger countries simply will not work in SIDS (e.g. solid waste from tourism industry... where would we dump the waste, given land constraints?).
- Need to focus on environmental issues faced by SIDS, including sewage treatment (90% of sewage goes untreated directly into the sea)

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 ?

- World Bank is seen to be falling behind in the climate change agenda, and engaging in work detrimental to the climate (as an example, the financing of clean coal technologies).
- Participants asking for greater attention to climate change, in the context of SIDS -- a "SIDS overlay".
- Not one size fits all with respect to Bank policies and safeguards, which affect different regions differently. Dissatisfaction with needing to adhere to policies (specifically procurement and gender issues) that are seen to be detrimental to effective project implementation, and causing delays. Using country systems is a step in the right direction.

- The smaller territories in the Caribbean do not have adequate legislative and administrative frameworks that are robust enough to protect the environment. WBG should provide more assistance for institutional strengthening for environmental mainstreaming in smaller countries.
- Greater attention needed to climate change issues as they are important to these island nations. The PPCR is a first step towards this, needs to be expanded.
- Bank should focus on the climate change issue; including the ecosystem based approach to climate change

3. How can the WBG put in place a systematic approach to assess environmental sustainability in sector portfolios?

- The Bank is focused very much on outputs and disbursements, rather than on results and impacts. How are projects evaluated to show impacts? Details wanted on the evaluation process –please describe framework/ mechanism/ roadmap for this.
- Request to demonstrate whether the Bank has shown accountability ... in terms of what you have achieved since the 2001 Environment Strategy. Have you actually achieved everything we had set out to do, or did you fall short? How have the overall objectives of the 2001 Env Strategy been met? Request inclusion in the new strategy.
- How can we demonstrate that we have now better capacity (since 2001) to deal with and address the environmental issues within our proposed new strategy.

4. How should short term and long term trade-offs between development and environmental sustainability be balanced?

- How do you define environmental sustainability? The explanation was not clear in the concept note.
- Give some importance to alternative energy programs for oil-dependent (non-producing) countries. Focus on solar, wind, hydro, biomass etc.
- Focus on SIDS-specific issues such as marine pollution—what to do about solid waste? Deal with sewage problem? WWT? Desalinization? What makes sense for the SIDS? Small islands need to subsidize water supply and treatment to communities. Costs to individuals are prohibitive.

5. Any other issues?

- The new Environment Strategy represents an opportunity to rethink the way the Bank does business, to restructure own systems
- Focusing on country systems would have implications for transaction costs. Safeguards justified, but need to find way to balance between country intent and World Bank requirements.
- Encourage co-financing to help lower transaction costs –but with mutual acceptance of safeguards of co-financiers among European donors. They don't always insist on their systems being used.
- Why does the World Bank not lend to graduated countries, like the Bahamas? No opportunity for them to comment on this strategy. Also important to note that there is inequities within such countries, despite high GDP/ capita, with many poor lacking access to services. Disaster and climate change make people a lot more vulnerable.

**LAC Region Environment Strategy Consultations: Caribbean
Antigua, February 2, 2010**

Participants list

Name	Title	Organization
Natasha George	Senior Foreign Service Officer	Antigua: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sharon Herbert	Sector Planner	Antigua
Paul Phillip	Senior Environment Officer	Grenada: Ministry of the Environment, Foreign Trade
Ms. Roxanne Neckles	Project Officer	Grenada: Ministry of Finance
Mr. Mervin Haynes	Director of Economic & Technical Cooperation	Grenada: Ministry of Finance
Mr. Tyrone Buckmire	Executive Officer	Grenada: Funds for Conservation Inc.
Randolph Edmead	Director of Physical Planning & Environment	St. Kitts & Nevis: Gov't Designated Project Rep.
Angela Walters Delpeche	Director of Physical Planning & Environment	St. Kitts & Nevis: Natural resource
Ms. Neranda Maurice	Sustainable Development & Environment Officer	St. Lucia: Ministry of Physical Development and the Environment
Mr. Swithin Donelly	Budget Analyst	St. Lucia: Ministry of Finance
Deborah Bushell	Local technical Specialist	St. Lucia: Consultant
Andrew Wilson	Director of National Parks	St. Vincent & the Grenadines: Project Rep.
Lucine Edwards	Fisheries Division	St. Vincent & the Grenadines: Finance/Planning
Roxanne John	Projects Officer	St. Vincent & the Grenadines: Natural Resource
Anderson Parillon	Economist	Dominica
Peter Murray		OECS Secretariat Rep.
Dayne Buddo	MPA specialist	Jamaica: Consultant, TNC
David Lee	Senior Technical Specialist	Consultant, TNC
Barry Spergel	Trust Fund Development Specialist	Consultant, KfW/TNC
Stacey Moultrie	Northern Caribbean	Bahamas: TNC
Philip S. Weech	Director	Bahamas
Eric Carey	Executive Director, Bahamas National Trust	Bahamas
John Myers	Dept. Director Caribbean Program	TNC
Robert Weary	Sr. Conservation Finance & Policy Advisor, Caribbean	TNC

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Name	Title	Organization
Kimberly John	Sustainable Waters Program Manager	TNC
Jonathan Rotter	Senior Attorney	TNC
Robbie Bovino	E. Caribbean Policy Associate	TNC
Ruth Blyther	Lesser Antilles Country Representative	TNC
Peter Hilliges	Director, Agriculture & Environment	Germany/KFW
Cheryl Dixon	Operations Officer (Environment)	Caribbean Development Bank
Kristin McLaughlin	(GEF) Liaison Officer	UNEP