

**STAKEHOLDER GROUP:** GOVERNMENT

**Location of consultation:** Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), Kuwait City, Kuwait

**Date:** March 29, 2010

**Participants:**

The consultation workshop was attended by nine participants from five countries, namely: Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia representing the ministries of Environment and the environment agencies and departments of their respective countries. Annex 1 provides a complete list of participants.

**World Bank Participants and Role:**

Luis Constantino, Environment Sector Manager, Moderator  
Alaa Sarhan, Senior Environmental Economist, Presenter/Moderator  
Lia Carol Sieghart, Senior Environmental Economist, Moderator  
Samia Al-Duajj, Operations Officer, Moderator

**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)?**

This consultation was held in conjunction with the technical roundtable meeting for the Bank initiative on the Gulf Environmental Partnership and Action Program (GEPAP) hosted by ROPME, March 27-28, 2010 in Kuwait. GEPAP was launched as part of the Bank Arab World Initiative (AWI). The technical roundtable meeting on GEPAP provided the opportunity and forum to have a useful and beneficial exchange of ideas and knowledge on the Gulf environment program and to discuss the next steps and way forward. Within this context, the Kuwait consultation workshop was much in line with the subject matter of GEPAP and the Bank efforts to strengthen its engagement with the Gulf region vis-à-vis the environment. Therefore, the consultation process in Kuwait fits into the ongoing policy dialogue with the countries in the Gulf region.

On a similar note, both meetings in Kuwait, that is, the GEPAP technical roundtable as well as the consultation workshop provided the participants with enhanced knowledge and information on the Bank: its mission, mandate, operations and interventions, etc. Also, participants became more familiar with the Reimbursable Technical Assistance (RTA) modality given that the Gulf countries are generally non-borrowing.

## **What were the key issues/themes raised by participants?**

The participants identified the main environmental challenges facing the Gulf region represented in the following:

- a. Depletion of natural resources;
- b. Adaptation to climate change;
- c. Land-based sources of pollution; and
- d. Integrated coastal zone management-related issues.

In addition, there was more-or-less consensus among the participants that the Bank needed to:

- i. Provide more support with respect to the assessment of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change;
- ii. Provide greater clarity as regards the dynamics for the (generally non-borrowing) Gulf countries to engage with the Bank within the Reimbursable Technical Assistance (RTA) modality required; and
- iii. Help identify areas for economic transformation needed to achieve environmentally sustainable development.

More detailed account of the issues and responses to the Bank specific questions are presented in a later section of this report.

## **Workshop Format**

The opening statements for the consultation workshop were given by H.E. Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, the Executive Secretary of ROPME and Mr. Luis Constantino, the Environment Sector Manager in the MENA region.

The presentations at the consultations meeting were delivered by the World Bank. The Bank staff participating in the meeting made several interventions and responded to the queries as well as addressed the points and issues raised by the participants'. The meeting agenda is provided in Annex 2.

As indicated in the meeting agenda (presented in Annex 2), the initial design and format of the consultations was to have breakout thematic working groups. However, it was decided upon the request of the participants and given their homogeneity (that is, representing governments) and their small number, to carry out the discussions in a plenary session instead.

Respondent Type	Consultation Response	Preliminary World Bank Group Response (may be addressed in final reporting back)
<b>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?</b>		
[Government]	There should be a well defined program between the countries and the Bank to outline the various activities.	
[Government]	The Bank can help developing countries in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Depletion of natural resources</li> <li>b. Adaptation to climate change</li> <li>c. Land-based sources of pollution</li> <li>d. Integrated Coastal Zone Management- related issues</li> </ul>	
[Government]	The eligibility criteria for GCC countries to receive support and lending operations from the Bank needs to be highlighted to countries more.	
[ROPME]	The Bank is to identify the areas for economic transformation needed to achieve environmentally sustainable development.	
<b>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?</b>		
[Government]	There is a need to convince governments to initiate more projects that generate global environmental benefits.	
<b>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?</b>		
[Government]	IFC is to provide financial incentives such as soft loans and lower interest rates in order for private sector to pursue environmental sustainability.	



Respondent Type	Consultation Response	Preliminary World Bank Group Response (may be addressed in final reporting back)
[Government]	Awareness raising is needed for private sector stakeholders on environmental sustainability and the means to pursue it.	
[Government]	IFC needs to establish an annual prize on the best green project and an award for innovations in the environment field.	
[Government]	The Bank/IFC is to showcase successful projects with the most value added in the environment.	
[Government]	IFC has an important role to help private sector in establishing SWM projects	
[Government]	The technical and financial role for the private sector has to be clearly defined from the outset by the Bank.	
[ROPME]	The issue of the transparent technology transfer to developing countries has to be addressed by the Bank.	
<b>4. How can the WBG put in place a systematic approach to assess environmental sustainability in sector portfolios?</b>		
[Government]	The Bank can assist countries to carry out systematic assessments for environmental sustainability in their sector portfolios by developing tool kits.	
[Government]	UNEP can complement the work of the Bank in this field and can assist.	
<b>5. How should short term and long term trade-offs between development and environmental sustainability be balanced?</b>		
[Government]	The countries expect the Bank to have a proactive role to assess the problems and highlight the solutions.	
[ROPME]	There should be a balance between the short and long-term trade-offs by introducing systems and regulations and carrying out monitoring and enforcement activities.	



Respondent Type	Consultation Response	Preliminary World Bank Group Response (may be addressed in final reporting back)
<b>6. Any other issues?</b>		
[Government]	The dynamics for the GCC countries to engage with the Bank within the RTA modality is not very clear to many institutions in these countries.	
[Government]	The Bank is to provide more support in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Adaptation to climate change</li> <li>b. Assessment of vulnerability to climate change</li> </ul>	



## Annex 1

### List of Participants

Name	Job Title, Position or Occupation	Organization	Country
Mr. Omid SEDIGHI	Director General of Marine Eco-Biology Bureau	Department of the Environment	Iran
Dr. Hamzeh VALAVI	Environmental Expert	Department of the Environment	Iran
Mr. Mohammad ABEL	Director of Natural Resources Department	Environment Public Authority	Kuwait
Mr. Badar AL-BULUSHI	Head of Wetland Environment, Marine Environment Conservation Dept.	Ministry of Environment & Climate Affairs	Oman
Mr. Mohammed Khamis Saif AL-MAZAINI	Head of Marine Environment Pollution Control Section	Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs	Oman
Mr. Hassan Ali AL-QASMI	Director of Industrial Inspection and Monitoring	Ministry of Environment	Qatar
Mr. Abdul Rahman Yusef AL-ABDUL JABBAR	Acting Director of Environment Assessment	Ministry of Environment	Qatar
Dr. Abdulbasit S.SAIRAFI	Deputy Assistant for Sustainable Development	Presidency of Meteorology & Environment (PME)	Saudi Arabia
Mr. Khaled AL-RASHEED		Presidency of Meteorology & Environment (PME)	Saudi Arabia
Dr. Abdul Rahman AL-AWADI	Executive Secretary	ROPME	
Dr. Hassan MOHAMMADI	Coordinator	ROPME	

## Annex 2

### Agenda

**Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME)  
Consultations  
Kuwait, March 29, 2010**

09:00-09:15	<b>Registration</b>
09:15-09:30	<b>Opening Remarks:</b> H.E. Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, ROPME Executive Secretary and Dr. Luis Constantino, Environment Sector Manager, MENA region, the World Bank
09:30-10:30	<b>The World Bank Group: an overview:</b> Dr. Alaa A. Sarhan, Senior Environmental Economist, Middle East and North Africa Region, the World Bank
10:30-11:30	<b>Presentation of the World Bank's Environment Strategy 2010 Concept Note:</b> Dr. Alaa A. Sarhan, Senior Environmental Economist, Middle East and North Africa Region, the World Bank
11:30-11:45	<b>Discussion to identify key thematic areas for the break-out groups</b>
11:45-12:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11:30-01:30	<b>Thematic Working Groups: Breakout Sessions</b>
01:30-02:00	<b>Presentations of working group findings</b>
02:00-02:15	<b>Synopsis and Concluding remarks</b>

## Annex 3

WBG New Environment Strategy Consultations  
ROPME, Kuwait  
March 29, 2010

Welcome address by Mr. Luis Constantino  
Sector Manager for Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development  
Middle East & North Africa region  
The World Bank

H.E. Dr. Al-Awadi, Executive Secretary of ROPME; ladies and gentlemen.

Once again, it is my great pleasure to be among you today. The World Bank Group is developing its new Environment Strategy which will be finalized by the end of 2010 whereas it will be implemented over the coming ten years. This new strategy, which is an update of the Bank Group's strategy of 2001, is being developed for the World Bank Group as a whole, that is, the World Bank, International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Development Association (IDA) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA). It is important for the World Bank to hear your views and hence, the importance of this consultation on the new Environment Strategy of the World Bank Group. What we are seeking and hoping to achieve in this consultation is to have a beneficial and useful exchange of information and ideas on: (i) the challenges and opportunities related to environmental sustainability in the MNA region, and more specifically in the countries represented here today; and. (ii) how the World Bank group can be better positioned to provide direct support and assist countries while catalyzing and leveraging other stakeholders' support in pursuing and achieving higher levels environmental sustainability.

Ladies and Gentlemen

In 2001, the World Bank launched its Environment Strategy entitled "Making a Sustainable Commitment" which is to be implemented until 2010. While this strategy recognized the importance of mainstreaming environmental issues across various sectors of the economy at the national level, it nonetheless addressed the environmental priorities through project and program design. In terms of its objectives, it pursued three main objectives, namely: (1) improving the quality of life, (2) improving the quality of growth, and (3) protecting the Regional and Global "commons".

The 2001 environment strategy made significant progress in including environmental concerns into the Bank's operations as well as in the on-going policy dialogue with the countries. We believe that the Strategy also helped countries to set their own environmental priorities – and private sector clients to address potential environmental impacts. Furthermore, many success stories for mainstreaming environment into various sectors in countries worldwide were evident during the implementation of the strategy. Nonetheless, the World Bank is always looking for ways and means to strengthen the impacts of its projects and interventions on the ground. In this regard, greater attention to environmental sustainability will be provided; Better measurement of activities and results through strengthened monitoring and evaluation. We would also like the new environment strategy to put even more emphasis on institutional aspects – and to have stronger links to climate change. In addition, we would work towards having a new strategy that is more responsive to the Country priorities.



### Annex 3

Once again, I would like to emphasize the importance of your input and feedback on the new environment strategy. We would hope that this consultation will bring about a useful exchange amongst ourselves which would feed into the new World Bank Group Environment Strategy.

In the end, I would like to thank ROPME for organizing this event. I would also like to thank you all for your participation. I wish you all a very productive event.

