

LAC REGION ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY CONSULTATIONS

BRAZIL

STAKEHOLDER GROUP (S): Federal government representatives (ministries of environment and water, ministry of planning, science and technology); state environmental agencies; representatives from NGOs; industry and agriculture associations; research and academic institutions.

Location of consultation: World Bank office, Brasilia, Brazil

Date: June 22, 2010

Participants:

See Annex below.

World Bank Participants and Role:

Laura Tlaiye (Advisor, Capital Markets Department): Presenter and resource person for discussion groups

Garo Batmanian (Sr. Environmental Specialist, Environment Unit, Latin America and the Caribbean Region): Presenter and resource person for discussion groups

Bernadete Lange (Environmental Specialist, Environment Unit, Latin America and the Caribbean Region): Participant

Daniele La Porta (Consultant, Urban Unit, Latin America and the Caribbean Region): Participant.

Eric Shayer (Environmental Specialist, International Finance Corporation – IFC): Participant.

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 partnership with Brazil on environment and water is longstanding and dynamic; this consultation, expressly organized for the 2010 Strategy, was complementary to it. Participants were first exposed to data and graphs depicting drivers of environmental challenges facing Latin America in the areas of urbanization (pollution/health impacts); depletion of natural resources (water/forests/land); climate change (agricultural vulnerability/natural disasters). Next, Garo Batmanian made a presentation summarizing the Bank's response in assisting clients to address these challenges, including examples of projects in Brazil. Break-out group discussions followed around three themes of particular interest to the Bank's 2010 Strategy: (i) experience in environmental mainstreaming; (ii) the role of Bank safeguards; and, (ii) how to improve Bank support to further enhance institutional capacity. In the afternoon, Laura Tlaiye presented the preliminary goals of the 2010 Strategy explaining the proposed conceptual framework guiding the new Strategy. A final discussion was moderated on the meaning of green development in the context of middle-income developing nations, like Brazil, and the role the Bank could play.

The discussions were lively and rich in perspectives from each stakeholder viewpoint. A summary report of the main points raised is presented below.

What were the key issues/themes raised by participants?

The breakout-groups raised the following main issues:

Mainstreaming

- There has been progress in developing instruments for mainstreaming, but they are insufficient and we lack metrics for evaluation at the sector level. Without metrics incentives are limited. We also lack comparative data across countries to assess degree of mainstreaming and sustainability.
- Information for proper upstream environmental planning is lacking.
- Regarding instruments, we need better balance between “carrots and sticks,” e.g., better financial conditions for projects that improve environmental conditions; improved enforcement.
- Proper mainstreaming needs to address the entire production chain.
- As environmental decentralization unfolds in federal countries, customization of instruments is necessary depending on the client (federal, state, municipal) and adapted to the objectives of each government level.
- There is a need to develop programs to support regions and ecological zones (biomes) instead of just within a jurisdiction.
- The World Bank is not just a financier; it serves as reference for all stakeholders and facilitates dialog among sectors.
- The World Bank makes knowledge contributions on mainstreaming but it needs to disseminate better and to involve clients earlier in the knowledge generation process.

Safeguards:

- Safeguards is a minimum standard; projects should have more ambitious environmental content beyond the areas covered by the safeguards and incorporate international best practice. Planning and implementation of safeguards related issues should also seek to build on existing country or state level systems and mechanisms avoiding duplication of efforts and the establishment of completely parallel systems.
- Technical capacity building is necessary to promote adoption of better practices and technologies.

Institutional Capacity:

- The World Bank’s role in distilling the experience of other relevant countries is highly valued; knowledge exchange among clients ought to be a priority as well as learning on how to manage knowledge.
- In developing programs for institutional development, the existence and permanence of career civil servants is very important.
- Civil society capacity building is as important because of its greater permanence. Make public access to information easier.
- Use other means to reach out with critical material: media; education channels, industry groups.



- Growth is not sufficient if it incurs environmental and social costs. The goal of seeking to influence growth paths towards green development that balances economic, environmental, and social needs seems valid for the WBG.
- Green development would mean increasing resource efficiency, i.e., reducing inputs for each unit of output. Indicators and baselines are needed to assess future progress.
- Local production is responding to consumption patterns; and to the international consumers and production chains.
- In a globalized economy the role of science and technology (patents, etc.) is linked to a notion of green development. Equity issues could arise if green development implies a reduction in poor countries' consumption.
- Correction of many market failures and improved environmental governance would be necessary to achieve green development, including proper valuation of environmental assets, and modernization of existing environmental legislation.
- There is a great need for partnering with the productive sector to promote/adopt technologies and practices that, when properly valued, could reduce environmental footprint, e.g., improved land management.
- Use of instruments such Strategic Environmental Assessment, or Brazil's Ecological Economic Zoning should be encouraged.

Participants

Brasilia, June 22, 2010

Name	Organization
Adalberto Verissimo	Imazon
César Victor do Espírito Santo	Rede Cerrado – Funatura
Claudia Veiga	SEAIN – Secretaria de Assuntos Internacionais
Danilo Iglioni	USP – Universidad de São Paulo
Grace Dalla Pria	CNI – Confederação Nacional da Indústria
Heloisa Menezes	CNI – Confederação Nacional da Indústria
Ione Egler	ASCAP/SEXEC/MCT – Ministério da Ciência e Tecnologia
Johanness Eck	Casa Civil
Maria Jocicleide Aguiar	GTA – Grupo de Trabalho Amazônico
Raquel Aparecida Mendes Lima	Secretaria de Recursos Hidricos e Meio Ambiente
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