

External Consultations

SOUTH ASIA REGION

Background

The World Bank Group has launched the preparation of a new Environment Strategy, which would be submitted for Board approval in December 2010. A concept note for the strategy has been prepared and global external consultations are expected to take place between November and February 2010 to seek stakeholder input on the Strategy. The objective of such worldwide stakeholder consultations, organized by region, is to develop a set of priorities for achieving environmental sustainability. During the second phase, from May – June 2010 priorities will be assessed through a series of analytical works and in August 2010, the results of these two phases will be consolidated to develop a final draft of the Strategy.

Schedule of the Consultations in South Asia Region

It has been decided that the most effective strategy for South Asia Region would be a series of consultations, with forty to sixty participants each, in seven major metropolitan areas throughout the region. Each consultation would take the form of a one-day workshop, with representation from primary clients and other stakeholders, including national and provincial government officials, civil society representatives, NGOs, academia, think tanks, private sector interests, UN agencies, other development institutions, and representatives of indigenous peoples, women, and youth groups.

Such consultations will be held in the countries, in accordance to the timeline below:

Afghanistan:	Kabul:	February 2010
Bangladesh:	Dhaka:	1 st week February 2010
India:	Delhi; Mumbai; Patna:	2 nd week February 2010
Nepal:	Kathmandu:	February 2010
Pakistan:	Islamabad:	2 nd week January 2010
Sri Lanka:	Colombo:	early Feb 2010

Coordination and Facilitation

The World Bank Group's South Asia Environment Sector (SASDI) has designated a coordinator in each country office, who will be responsible for coordinating the workshop scheduling, logistics, including identifying and inviting the appropriate participants and recruiting good facilitation services. Overall coordination for SAR will be undertaken by a SASDI representative based in Delhi, who will be responsible for liaising with the Environment Department (ENV). The World Bank will be represented at each workshop by the workshop coordinator and the relevant Country Management Unit (CMU) representative from the country office. In some countries, a representative from ENV may participate. Additionally facilitation services will be hired by each country office to support preparation of background documentation, summarizing the outcomes of the consultations, translation services and assisting with logistical arrangements.

Output of the Consultations

The consultative meeting will be structured to have maximum participation and discussions through a number of breakout groups. The output for each consultation would be a report, presenting the South Asia's Region's contribution to the corporate Environment Strategy, which would cover among other things : (a) past environmental challenges and successes; (b) response to the questions raised in the Environment Strategy consultation paper; (c) lessons learned from previous World Bank environment programs; (d) and future environmental challenges and Bank's main focus, including strategic priorities for the new Bank Group Environment Strategy and ways to ensure effective implementation. In addition, completed consultation feedback templates for each scheduled consultation would also be prepared as interim outputs.

Country Coordinators:

Afghanistan: Mohammed Arif Rasuli
Bangladesh: Shakil Ferdousi
Pakistan: Javaid Afzal
Sri Lanka: Sumith Pilapitiya
Nepal: Drona Raj Ghimire
India: Ruma Tavorath

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