

Mr. James Wolfensohn,  
President,  
The World Bank  
1818 H Street, NW  
Washington DC 20433.  
USA

October 4, 2004

Dear Mr. Wolfensohn,

**Re: Positive Changes in Development Policy Lending**

The External Advisory Group for implementation of World Bank Forest Sector Strategy wishes to record its appreciation of the positive and pro-active provisions for environmental safeguards in the new Development Policy Lending (OP/BP 8.60) that substitutes the OD 8.60. Through you, we also wish to convey our appreciation of the good work done by Vice Presidents Jim Adams and Ian Johnson to align the policy to the concerns voiced by this group and the larger civil society.

We have also noted the provisions for greater commitment of human and financial resources for implementation of this policy. This has been our major concern expressed in our earlier communications to Vice President Ian Johnson. Without such investment, it would be impossible for the Bank to comply with the new policy in all countries receiving development policy lending and, without the due diligence mandated by the new policy; unanticipated impacts are likely to undermine the development objectives of such interventions. We will continue to monitor these developments with interest and in the spirit of constructive engagement with the Bank to serve our mutual objectives of poverty reduction and sustainable resource management.

We are working closely with ESSD to ensure your presence in the next meeting of EAG, which will provide an opportunity for prioritization of objectives and determination of relevant processes for the future that will be relevant to both the Bank and the larger civil society concerned with sustainable forest management, conservation and development.

Yours sincerely,

Arvind Khare  
Chair  
External Advisory Group for Implementation of World Bank Forest Sector Strategy

5301 Macomb Street N.W.

Washington D.C. 20016