

# **Notes on the Second Meeting of the External Advisory Group (EAG) on Implementation of the World Bank Forest Strategy**

*This documentation was prepared by the members of the EAG*

May 1, 2004  
Geneva

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Present:

Mr. Yati Bun

Mr. Hosny El-Lakany

Dr. David Kaimowitz,

Mr. Stewart Maginnis

Mr. Yam Malla

Mr. Arvind Khare

Mr. Jim Douglas

Mr. David Cassells

## **Internal Working Procedures of EAG**

Terms of reference of EAG

Members reviewed the terms of reference of EAG. The agreed amendments are highlighted through track-changes in the attachment no.1.

EAG Composition

To make EAG geographically more representative it was decided to invite one person from Africa region and one person from Latin America. Members offered to contact Manuel Rodrigues (to be contacted by David Cassells) and Christine Amaoko (to be contacted by David Kaimowitz) for their consent to be members of EAG. It was agreed that once the new members give their consent, the Bank will formally write to invite them to be members of EAG.

PROFOR Oversight

PROFOR is expected to have a management group that provides an objective assessment of its working. Since PROFOR is very much a part of the sector strategy and EAG is constituted to advice on implementation of that strategy, it could take a look at PROFOR's contribution to the Strategic Plan. It was reported that the donors had a positive response to this proposal. Some members raised concerns of conflict of interest if EAG provides an oversight to PROFOR work. It was suggested that EAG will need clear conflict of interest guidelines. In general it was agreed that the EAG will provide oversight to PROFOR for which the modalities will be worked out by Jim Douglas and David Cassells.

## **OP 8.6**

EAG expressed serious concern that there has been no response to its letter on OP 8.6 addressed to Vice President Johnson. It is a test case to understand the seriousness the Bank attaches to the advice of EAG.

Members expressed their continued concern about policy based lending and its environmental impact, specially its impact on forests, and the adequacy of provisions in the revised OP 8.6. The members recalled the promise (given to the members of civil society by the Bank) that impact on forests will be specifically built into OP 8.6. Some members pointed out the fact that upfront analysis does not exist that can guide the adjustment lending and there is no ongoing monitoring that delineates the impact (cause and effect) to mitigate the negative consequences on natural resources and lastly there are no follow up provisions if it is discovered that something needs to be done. It was suggested that there is a need for ESW in key forest countries that should inform possible adjustment lending decisions and a need to enhance human resource capability to undertake such work. Members agreed that a follow up letter should be sent to Vice President flagging the concerns of EAG and the letter could be made public.

### **Democratic Republic of Congo**

Simon Counsel of Rainforest Foundation has brought this issue before EAG. The Bank staff briefed the members of the progress that has been made since the receipt of the letter. While some members were quite knowledgeable about the situation in Congo, it was clear that EAG did not have sufficient information or systems to deal with such issues. In general, EAG has yet to develop a response mechanism for the issues raised by the members of the larger civil society.