

New Arrivals at the Public Information Center in Sri Lanka November 2006

Global Gains through Community-Based Approaches:



Abstract

The paper begins by discussing the underlying rationale for the structure of projects in the World Bank-GEF Africa Region portfolio. It next outlines key design principles of the projects. Finally, it tells the stories of specific projects in the portfolio to illustrate the principles and messages that are critical to fulfilling the GEF mandate, describes the lessons that are being learned, and examines the avenues for future project development suggested by these lessons.

Managing Climate Risk:



Abstract

Climate change is already taking place, and further changes are inevitable. Developing countries, and particularly the poorest people in these countries, are most at risk. The impacts result not only from gradual changes in temperature and sea level but also, in particular, from increased climate variability and extremes, including more intense floods, droughts, and storms. These changes are already having major impacts on the economic performance of developing countries and on the lives and livelihoods of millions of poor people around the world. Climate change thus directly affects the World Bank Group's mission of eradicating poverty. It also puts at risk many projects in a wide range of sectors, including infrastructure, agriculture, human health, water resources, and environment.

Promoting Global Environmental Priorities in the Urban Transport Sector:



Abstract

This paper reviews the World Bank Group's experience in implementing urban transport projects under GEF Operational Program 11 (OP 11), on sustainable transport, and outlines the opportunities for improving the effectiveness of these projects. It is addressed to policy makers and professionals of bilateral and multilateral agencies, client country governments, and other stakeholders. The next chapter outlines the environmental issues associated with the transport sector and describe the synergies between GEF OP 11 and the Bank's urban transport priorities. Chapter 3 then examines World Bank Group experience in implementing GEF-supported urban transport projects. Chapter 4 looks at the opportunities for strengthening the World Bank Group's contribution to transport sector initiatives under GEF OP 11.

Fostering Higher Growth and Employment in the Kingdom of Morocco



Abstract

This book identifies the binding constraints to growth of Morocco. It applies an innovative procedure known as "growth diagnostic" and has a central finding. The Moroccan economy suffers from a too slow process of structural transformation for achieving higher growth, especially for its exports that face unfavorable external shocks arising from competitor countries in the main markets for Moroccan exports. This process of so-called "productive diversification" requires that Morocco enhance its competitiveness.

Africa Development Indicators 2006



From the World Bank Africa Database

Abstract

Africa Development Indicators 2006 provides the most detailed collection of data on Africa available in one volume. It contains about 450 macroeconomic, sectoral, and social indicators, covering 53 African countries. Designed to provide all those interested in Africa with a focused and convenient set of data to monitor development programs and aid flows in the region, this is an invaluable reference tool for analysts and policymakers who want a better understanding of the economic and social developments occurring in Africa.

Delivering on the Promise of Pro-Poor Growth

Insights and Lessons from Country Experiences



Abstract

Broad-based growth is critical for accelerating poverty reduction. But income inequality also affects the pace at which growth translates into gains for the poor. Despite the attention researchers have given to the relative roles of growth and inequality in reducing poverty, little is known about how the micro underpinnings of growth strategies affect poor households' ability to participate in and profit from growth. Delivering on the Promise of Pro-Poor Growth contributes to the debate on how to accelerate poverty reduction by providing insights from eight countries that have been relatively successful in delivering pro-poor growth: Bangladesh, Brazil, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Tunisia, Uganda, and Vietnam. It integrates growth analytics with the microanalysis of household data to determine how country policies and conditions interact to reduce poverty and to spread the benefits of growth across different income groups. This title is a useful resource for policy makers, donor agencies, academics, think tanks, and government officials seeking a practical framework to improve country level diagnostics of growth-poverty linkages.

Land Law Reform Achieving Development Policy Objectives



John W. Bruce; Renee Giovarelli; Leonard Rolfes Jr.; David Bledsoe; Robert Mitchell

Abstract

Land Law Reform examines the wide-spread efforts to reform land law in developing countries and countries in transition, drawing in particular upon the experience of the World Bank and the Rural Development Institute. The book considers the role of land law reform in the development process and analyzes how the World Bank has sought to support these legal changes in client countries. It reviews the experience with reform of laws affecting land access and rights in achieving gender equity, identifies opportunities for reinforcing environmentally sustainable development through land law reform, and examines from both growth and poverty alleviation perspectives the effectiveness of reforms to formalize property rights and liberalize land markets. The concluding chapter recommends some basic priorities for land law reforms. John W. Bruce is a senior counsel in the Legal Vice-Presidency of the World Bank, and a former director of the Land Tenure Center of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has published extensively on land law and land policy in developing countries. Renee Giovarelli, David Bledsoe, Leonard Rolfes, and Robert Mitchell are staff attorneys with the Rural Development Institute of Seattle, Washington, a nonprofit organization that promotes and advises on land-related policy and legal reform in developing and transition countries. All have done fieldwork and advised extensively on land law reform and have published widely on this topic.

Protecting and Improving the Global Commons:



Abstract

The World Bank Group considers the Global Environment Facility (GEF) an essential part of the international community's response to the challenges of protecting the regional and global commons. That a robust global response continues to be required is beyond doubt. In 2005 the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, an international appraisal of the health of the earth's ecosystems, found that changes in ecosystems during the past 50 years were more rapid than in any comparable period in human history and that this degradation could worsen significantly. Scientific evidence has shown that climate change is already occurring, and the poorest people in developing countries are at greatest risk.

Assessment of the World Bank/GEF Strategy for the Market Development of Concentrating Solar Thermal Power:



Abstract

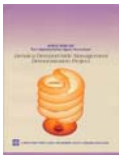
The main objective of this assignment was to assess the strategy being followed by the Bank/GEF for solar thermal power technology in light of: (1) the current state of technology, costs, and market development; (2) the difficulties experienced by the GEF co-financed projects, assessing the three primary risks facing the Bank/GEF portfolio of limited industry response, uncertainty of meeting the cost and performance targets, and uncertainty of sustainability and replicability arising from the absence of long-term country or international commitments; and (3) the original objectives of the portfolio. According to the aims of the investigation, the following three tasks were carried out and are presented in the following chapters: summary of solar thermal technology growth; risk assessment and mitigation; and market development strategy.

Poland Efficient Lighting Project:



This report is one in a series of post-implementation project impact assessments undertaken in order to better understand the extent of impacts of GEF (Global Environment Facility) project interventions, the sustainability of these impacts, and lessons learned and to determine how the GEF operational programs' long-term goals are being addressed. These reviews focus on lessons learned at the project and thematic level that are relevant to the World Bank and GEF policies and strategies. This project was one of four climate change projects in the energy efficiency thematic area selected for study in 2004-5.

Jamaica Demand Side Management Demonstration Project:



Abstract

This study assesses the success, sustainability, and attribution of the following outcomes and impacts: Project Outcomes: demonstration of technical and financial feasibility, increase in institutional capacity, development of replicable model. Intermediate Outcomes: replication of the model, additional increase in institutional capacity, consumer preference influenced improvement in capacity and confidence of distributors and retailers. Ultimate Outcomes: transformation of the Jamaican energy efficiency markets. Impact: energy savings, greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions, reductions in air pollutants of local concern, capacity savings, financial benefits.

Thailand Promotion of Electrical Energy Efficiency Project:

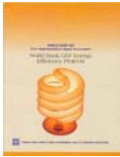


Abstract

Four climate change projects in the energy efficiency thematic area were selected for study in 2004-5: the Poland Efficient Lighting Project, Mexico High Efficiency Lighting Project, Jamaica Demand-Side Management Demonstration Project, and Thailand Promotion of Electricity Energy Efficiency

(TPEEE) Project, which is the subject of this report. Marbek Resource Consultants conducted the study in association with Global Change strategies International. The field mission to Bangkok took place January 17-28, 2005. The TPEEE Project was approved in 1993 and took place from 1993 to 2000. The project, national in scope, consisted of a five-year demand-side management (DSM) plan.

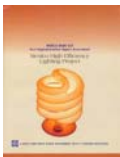
World Bank GEF Energy Efficiency Projects:



Abstract

Four energy efficiency/demand-side (DSM) management projects were assessed in 2004-5 to determine their long-term impacts and to draw out lessons that could be applied in the development of future World Bank/ Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects. The projects were: o Poland Efficient Lighting Project (PELP) o Mexico High Efficiency Lighting Project (ILUMEX) o Thailand Promotion of Electrical Energy Efficiency Project (TPEEE) o Jamaica Demand-Side Management Demonstration Project (JDSMDP). All four projects had the objectives of developing DSM capacity, reducing electricity consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and developing technical and financial program models that could be replicated.

Mexico High Efficiency Lighting Project:



Abstract

This study assesses the success, sustainability, and attribution of the following outcomes and impacts: Project Outcomes: demonstration of technical and financial feasibility, increase in institutional capacity, and development of a replicable model. Intermediate Outcomes: replication of the model; additional increase in institutional capacity; consumer preference influenced; and improvement in capacity and confidence of manufacturers, distributors, and retailers. Ultimate Outcomes: transformation of the Mexican residential lighting market. Impacts: energy savings, reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, reductions of air pollutants of local concern, capacity savings, and financial benefits.

The Role of Parliaments in Curbing Corruption



Abstract

In most countries, parliament has the constitutional mandate to both oversee government and to hold government to account; often, audit institutions, ombuds and anti-corruption agencies report to parliament, as a means of ensuring both their independence from government and reinforcing parliament's position at the apex of accountability institutions. At the same time, parliaments can also play a key role in promoting accountability, through constituency outreach, public hearings, and parliamentary commissions. This title will be of interest to parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, development practitioners, students of development and those interested in curbing corruption and improving governance in developing and developed countries alike.

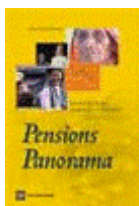
Aid that Works Successful Development in Fragile States



Abstract:

Research in recent years on aid effectiveness shows that significant obstacles in fragile states - insecurity, poor governance and weak implementation capacity - usually prevent aid from achieving the desired results in these environments. This study investigates the attributes and effectiveness of donor-supported programmes and projects that worked well under difficult conditions in fragile state.

Pensions Panorama Retirement-Income Systems in 53 countries



Edward Whitehouse

Abstract:

Reforming pensions in a fiscally and socially sustainable way is a central issue in developing and developed countries alike. This report, produced in collaboration by the OECD and the World Bank, addresses some of the key questions underlying the debate and provides the basis for a new, consistent, approach to the empirical analysis of pension systems and entitlements around the world.

Infrastructure in Latin America and the Caribbean Recent Developments and Key Challenges



Marianne Fay; Mary Morrison

Abstract:

This book reviews Latin America's experience with infrastructure reform over the last fifteen years. It argues that the region's infrastructure has suffered from public retrenchment and unrealistic expectations about private involvement. Poor infrastructure now hampers productivity, growth, and poverty reduction. Addressing this requires more and better spending, and acceptance that governments remain central to infrastructure provision and supervision, although the private sector still has an important role to play.

Natural Resources, Neither Curse nor Destiny



Abstract:

This volume studies the role of natural resources in development and economic diversification. It brings together a variety of analytical perspectives, ranging from econometric analyses of economic growth to historical studies of successful development experiences in countries with abundant natural resources.

The State of State Reforms in Latin America

Edited by Eduardo Lora

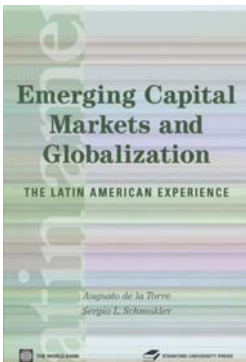


Abstract

Latin America suffered a profound state crisis in the 1980s, which prompted not only the wave of macroeconomic and deregulation reforms known as the Washington Consensus, but also a wide variety of institutional or "second generation" reforms. The State of State Reform in Latin America reviews and assesses the outcomes of these less studied institutional reforms.

This book examines four major areas of institutional reform: a) political institutions and the state organization; b) fiscal institutions, such as budget, tax and decentralization institutions; c) public institutions in charge of sectoral economic policies (financial, industrial, and infrastructure); and d) social sector institutions (pensions, social protection, and education). In each of these areas, the authors summarize the reform objectives, describe and measure their scope, assess the main outcomes, and identify the obstacles for implementation, especially those of an institutional nature.

Emerging Capital Markets and Globalization: The Latin American Experience



Abstract

Back in the early 1990s, economists and policy makers had high expectations about the prospects for domestic capital market development in emerging economies, particularly in Latin America. Unfortunately, they are now faced with disheartening results. Stock and bond markets remain illiquid and segmented. Debt is concentrated at the short end of the maturity spectrum and denominated in foreign currency, exposing countries to maturity and currency risk. Capital markets in Latin America look particularly underdeveloped when considering the many efforts undertaken to improve the macroeconomic environment and to reform the institutions believed to foster capital market development. The disappointing performance has made conventional policy recommendations questionable, at best. Emerging Capital Markets and Globalization analyzes where we stand and where we are heading on capital market development. First, it takes stock of the state and evolution of Latin American capital markets and related reforms over time and relative to other countries. Second, it analyzes the factors related to the development of capital markets, with particular interest on measuring the impact of reforms. And third, in light of this analysis, it discusses the prospects for capital market development in Latin America and emerging economies and the implications for the reform agenda.

At Loggerheads?

Agricultural Expansion, Poverty Reduction, and Environment in the Tropical Forests



Abstract

Despite the vast number of books and reports on tropical deforestation, there's confusion about the causes of forest loss and forest poverty, and the effectiveness of policy responses. *At Loggerheads* seeks to describe ways to reconcile pressures for agricultural expansion in the tropics with the urgent needs for both forest conservation and poverty alleviation. It diagnoses the causes and impacts of forest loss and the reasons for the association of forests and poverty. It looks at how policies - modulated by local conditions - act simultaneously on deforestation and poverty, creating tradeoffs or complementarities, depending on the situation. The report brings to the surface problems that impede adoption of favourable policies, describing institutional and technological innovations that might help overcome these impediments.