



WORLD BANK ACCESS TO INFORMATION



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- Evolving since 1985*
- Adopted in July 2010
- Current status and plans
- Practical material and/or capacity building activities to promote policies on access to information
- Main challenges in implementing the AI Policy and opportunities to address them: governance, training/culture, public interest.



Thank you.



World Bank

Stakeholder Engagement and Access to Information



Aarhus Convention meeting

Thematic session on promotion of the principles of the
Convention in international forums

Una Meades, Lead, Environment and Social Standards

Ian White, Operations Officer

June 27, 2019

World Bank's new Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)

- As of October 1, 2018, applies to all new World Bank investment project financing (IPF)
- Brings the World Bank's environmental and social protections into closer harmony with those of other development institutions
- Builds on existing practice of encouraging meaningful consultation with stakeholders by establishing a systematic approach to **stakeholder engagement** and **meaningful consultation** throughout the project cycle
- Dedicated standard (ESS10) on stakeholder engagement and information disclosure



ESF and Stakeholder Engagement



- Assess stakeholder interest and support for the project and enable stakeholders' views to be taken into account in project design
- Promote and provide means for effective and inclusive engagement with project-affected parties throughout the project life-cycle
- Ensure that appropriate project information is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible and appropriate manner

Highlights

- Requires a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)
- Encourages early identification of stakeholders, both project-affected parties and other interested parties
- Explicit requirement on addressing disadvantaged and vulnerable groups
- Retention of independent third-party specialists in stakeholder engagement where necessary
- Specifies process and criteria for information disclosure and meaningful consultation
- Requires an accessible and inclusive grievance mechanism, proportionate to risks and impacts

- **Practical materials and capacity building:**
 - **Guidance for staff and Borrowers** – Guidance Notes, Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Good Practice Note on Third Party Monitoring
 - **Project level** – SEP support and World Bank due diligence, capacity building activities are part of project implementation
 - **Systems level** – Encourage and support Borrowers to strengthen E+S capacity within their national (or sub-national) systems

- **Challenging areas:**
 - **New ESF requirements** around stakeholder engagement and perceived costs to Borrowers
 - *Effective stakeholder engagement can improve the environmental and social sustainability of projects, enhance project acceptance, and make a significant contribution to successful project design and implementation*
 - **Inclusion** of disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals or groups
 - *Bank Directive on Addressing Risks and Impacts on Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups*
 - Stakeholder engagement during **project implementation**
 - Establishment of functional and **effective Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRMs)** at the project level