

Consultation and Engagement Process

IFC believes that stakeholders' input is critical for the successful update of the Sustainability Framework and is committed to a collaborative and transparent review process.

The goal of the consultation is to give all stakeholders, particularly those affected by IFC's projects, sufficient opportunity to participate in the review and update process by voicing their opinions, suggestions and concerns.

IFC will solicit feedback through a combination of web-based consultations, face-to-face consultations in Washington, D.C. and in different regions. Some meetings will be "by invitation only" while others will be open to anyone. We will also consult with project-affected communities. IFC will also use available electronic tools to organize live e-discussion meetings open to a broad spectrum of stakeholders. Information on specific dates and venues will be provided in the bulletin board on this website.

[Register here](#) to provide direct input to the Sustainability Policy, Performance Standards and the Disclosure Policy. Phase 2 consultation will begin on June 2, 2010. You will receive a notification once the process starts.

Language

Consultations are conducted in English, though translation services will be available during meetings. A summary of the meeting notes in the local language will be provided for regional face-to-face meetings and meetings with local communities.

IFC asks that comments outside of these meetings be submitted in English.

Translations of the Sustainability Policy, Performance Standards and the Disclosure Policy will be available for Phase 2 and Phase 3 Consultation in track change in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Once they are approved by the Board, these will be translated as well, along with the Guidance Notes.

Indicative Timeline

The review and update is divided into three distinct phases aimed to achieve different objectives, but stakeholders are welcome to provide feedback at anytime during the process. IFC will disclose summaries of each consultation round on this website.

Summaries of consultations held during Phase 1 Consultation are [available here](#).

Phase 1: Consultation on key issues, challenges, and process (September 14- November 13, 2009)

The goal of this 60-day consultation period was to solicit feedback on key issues and challenges encountered during the application of the sustainability framework. IFC identified some preliminary key issues and challenges in [IFC's Policy and Performance Standards on Social and Environmental Sustainability and Policy on Disclosure of Information: Report on the First Three Years of Application](#) [PDF] and used this report to start the dialog.

During this consultation period, IFC received feedback on the following:

1. **Clarity of Language:** IFC sought advice on how to increase clarity and reduce ambiguity in language wherever necessary.
2. **Implementation Effectiveness:** IFC sought suggestions on how to improve implementation, especially from those who have implemented the Performance Standards on projects, or from those who have been directly impacted by projects that implemented the Performance Standards.
3. **Gaps in Current Coverage:** IFC sought help in identifying missing areas and accompanying guidance on ways to implement new requirements on the ground.

During this period IFC also collected stakeholders' views on the consultation process outlined in the Approach to Consultation and Engagement paper and [the methodology used to select communities for consultation](#).

Phase 2: Draft Policy Framework and Guidance Notes, Version 1 (June 2 - July 31, 2010)

Following on the dialog in Phase 1 on the key issues and challenges, IFC will submit version 1 (V.1) of the revised Sustainability Framework to the Committee on Development Effectiveness (CODE) for review. Once CODE approves these documents for public consultation, V.1 of the framework and Guidance Notes marked to clearly show where any changes are proposed, will be made public and the second 60-day consultation period will begin. The goal of this consultation period is to solicit detailed feedback on the proposed changes in V.1.

Phase 3: Draft Policy Framework and Guidance Notes, Version 2 (October 2010)

Building upon the comments received during the previous two consultation periods, IFC will hold Phase 3 Consultation for 30 days on the second version (V.2) of draft text changes. The documents will be marked to clearly show where any changes are proposed in comparison to V.1. The goal of this consultation period will be to solicit specific feedback on the near-final changes to the text before they are submitted to IFC's Board for review and approval.