

PUBLIC
SIMULTANEOUS DISCLOSURE

DOCUMENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

MODERNIZATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL POLICIES OF THE IDB

In accordance with the Access to Information Policy, this document is being made publicly available simultaneously with its distribution to the Board for information.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION PLAN

The main objective of the public consultations is to notify all interested stakeholders of the proposed ESPF process and receive their feedback as inputs in the process. The consultation process will be guided by the principle of transparency with the goal of designing a highly effective and quality ESPF.

Public consultations will allow stakeholders to provide inputs throughout the cycle of policy development, from the early stages of drafting through consideration by the Board. The consultation process is designed to facilitate meaningful engagement with all stakeholders. It will include the following main steps: (a) pre-consultation, (b) analysis of key stakeholders, (c) public notification of the ESPF process within 5-10 days from approval of the Policy Profile, (c) forum for electronic comments and in person consultations, (d) response to stakeholders, and (e) a 30-day period to review the revised ESPF. An initial engagement phase has already been initiated as part of this process, which has included meetings with key interested parties including the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, Indian Law Resource Center, and representatives from the Bank Information Center. Proposed actions during each step are listed below.

Analysis of Stakeholders. A stakeholder analysis has been initiated to inform the distribution channels and key partners for the public consultation process. Analysis at the regional level will be conducted to identify the relevant categories of interested stakeholders. The relevant stakeholder categories for the consultation process will include the following: (i) government officials and implementing agencies in LAC Region; (ii) local government agencies; (iii) government policymakers; (iv) civil society (local and international NGOs, community-based organizations, media, and communities currently or potentially impacted by IDB operations, etc.); (v) indigenous peoples governments, collective governance mechanisms, networks, and traditional leaders (IPGCNT); (vi) academia and research organizations; (vii) financing institutions; and (viii) the public at large.

The level of organized stakeholder engagement is high in Latin America and the Caribbean. There are dedicated institutions for monitoring environmental and social safeguards in the region that have gained significant experience through recent policy revisions. Institutions will be engaged at the initial stakeholder analysis in order to provide insights, and access to their dedicated networks.

Notification. Once this Policy Profile is approved by the Board, the IDB will widely announce its intention to revise and update the IDB E&S policies, using a dedicated website: www.iadb.org/mpas, country offices, networks identified through the stakeholder analysis, key civil society networks, and local media in member countries.

- The dedicated website will allow individuals to sign up for updates on the process and will provide guidance and information on notification timelines and on specific ways to provide feedback and participate. This website will be widely disseminated to a broad range of stakeholders, allowing them to view and download all relevant material, provide comments, and monitor the consultation process in real-time. Visitors to the site will also be able to sign up for notifications when significant updates are posted on the site.
- The IDB will post the following on the dedicated website: (a) the approved Policy Profile, (b) the different iterations of the draft Environmental and Social Policy Framework as available throughout the update process (in English, Spanish, Portuguese, French and other local languages as needed), (b) other resources to facilitate the consultations, and

(c) details of the timeline of the review process. The IDB will post the documentation on its dedicated website at least 30 days prior to each consultation session.

Management of Electronic Comments and In-person sessions and consultations. The IDB will use a combination of digital web-based consultations, live consultations, and other relevant communications tools available in the region to reach the widest possible audience.

- **Web-based consultations.** To ensure the broadest participation, the primary vehicle for regional, national and subnational stakeholder inputs will be a web-based platform through which any individuals or organizations with reasonable Internet access can participate in the consultations. This platform will be optimized to enable access via cell phone to encourage the active participation of rural and traditional peoples. Electronic comments will be submitted via the website or by e-mail. During the initial drafting stage (after approval of the Policy Profile), a structured questionnaire would be made available for 45 days to gather views on lessons learned on specific issues subject to be considered in the new ESPF.
- **In-person consultations.**
 - **Initial stage.** After this Policy Profile is approved by the Board, during the initial, drafting stage, two in-person workshop-style sessions will be held in Washington DC to discuss lessons learned from the implementation of the current E&S policies. Representatives of communities that have been impacted by IDB projects (both positively, as well as negatively), members of IDB staff familiar with these operations, and representatives from MICI will be invited to participate. The sessions will be led by an experienced facilitator with the goal of creating a brief summary document with key lessons learned for distribution.
 - **Consultative meetings on the ESPF Draft.** After the first draft of the new ESPF is approved by the Board for consultation and posted on the dedicated website, at least four consultative meetings will be held in the four country departments of the Bank (one for each department: “*Andean*”, “*Caribbean*”, “*Southern Cone*”, and the “*Central America, Haiti, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic*” Departments). Based on the outcomes of the stakeholders’ analysis, a range of stakeholders’ government authorities, civil society organizations, business, academia, individuals, and media will be invited to participate in these meetings. Designated meetings with indigenous peoples and their representatives will be held as part of the in-person consultations in the region. Additional meetings with stakeholders will be organized at IDB Headquarters and the IDB Offices in Europe and Asia. In addition, a series of videoconferences will be prepared to bring together various stakeholder groups within and across the subregions. The IDB will post session summaries for all in-person consultations.

Feedback to Stakeholders. At the end of the consultation period, the IDB will prepare and make publicly available a Response to Comments Document, consolidating the comments received and indicating Management’s views and proposals for how to address the key issues raised. The IDB will send electronic notices to all participants who provided comments via the web or through e-mail, informing them that the Response to Comments Document has been posted.

30-day External Comment Period. Following the public consultations, Management will revise the ESPF document and translate it into the respective IDB international languages, along with

additional indigenous languages identified through the consultation period. The revised ESPF document will be posted on the external website for a period of 30 days to give stakeholders an opportunity to assess how their inputs were considered. At the end of this period, the IDB will prepare the final version of the ESPF, taking into account the comments received, and a Response to Comments Document, consolidating the comments and IDB responses. Once the 30-day external comment period has ended and stakeholder comments have been addressed, both documents will be disclosed on the IDB website at the time of their distribution to the Policy and Evaluation Committee of the IDB Board, for final consideration.

Overall, the consultation period, including in-country meetings, will initiate after the approval of the Policy Profile by the Board and it will end with the virtual 30-day consultation.

Communication Tools. The consultations will use a suite of communication tools: (a) to make the draft ESPF and other resource material available to as many stakeholders as possible, (b) to enable Country Representatives and other Bank staff in country offices to lead in-country consultations in a coherent and cost-effective manner, and (c) to ensure that the feedback from consultations is reported as accurately and uniformly as possible.

Specific tools and resources to clarify expectations will include the following:

- A global (focused on LAC Countries) consultation website promoted on the IDB homepage and through relevant social networks.
- A PowerPoint presentation of the guiding principles and key elements of the proposed policy with discussion questions for the website.
- An “easy read” summary of the Draft ESPF posted on the website (in Spanish, English, Portuguese, French and other languages as needed).
- An electronic feedback form that would be posted on the web to solicit electronic comments.
- A “Questions and Answers” guide to the Draft ESPF document.