



## Inter-American Development Bank

### Draft Environment and Safeguards Compliance Policy

#### Summary Record of the Consultation Meeting

#### Caribbean Region (Bridgetown, Barbados)

January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005

### Background

The Barbados consultation was the first of a series of face-to-face meetings with regional stakeholders regarding the *Draft Environment and Safeguard Compliance Policy*. The meeting was held on the afternoon of the 26<sup>th</sup> January, immediately following a 2-day meeting with civil society organized jointly by IDB and CDB. The meeting had 25 participants from civil society organizations, governments and the private sector from five Caribbean countries. The Consultation was attended by more participants than invited and their interventions were well articulated and of high quality. The meeting had excellent support from the Barbados IDB Country Office and from the organizers of the joint IDB-CDB Civil Society meeting.

### Key comments regarding the IDB Draft Environment and Safeguard Compliance Policy

#### General comments:

- The policy is an ambitious document, which needs to take into account the differences among countries in terms of institutional capacities and resources to respond to requirements established in the Policy. Emphasis was placed on governments' responsibilities in enforcing environmental regulation and in their commitment to effective environmental management.
- Emphasis was placed on the need to strengthen the dialogue between national governments and civil society, through adequate participatory processes and mechanisms.

#### Key specific comments

The following represents IDB's understanding of the key comments presented at the consultation.

#### Directives "A" -- Mainstreaming

**A1.** Due to the importance of natural resources and environmental quality in the region's economic development, it is critical that country environmental assessments be integrated in programming activities.

**A4.** The directive should also refer to sub-regional multilateral environmental agreements, and key sub-regional agreements should be added to the list of key environmental agreements listed in Annex A.

#### Directives "B" -- Safeguarding the Environment

**B2, B4, B6, B15.** Directives are not sufficiently binding when it comes to national governments' responsibilities and compliance. Revisions need to address the caveats built into the directives.

**B4.** It was unclear to the reader that the “overall benefit” referred to in this directive goes beyond the financial benefits of a private sector sponsor, to include economic and social benefits of broad social groups. Clarification was requested as to who decides whether mitigation and compensation measures are acceptable.

**B5.** Emphasis was placed on ensuring that the implementation of the contingency or remediation plans for managing hazardous materials takes place, through mechanisms such as reserve accounts set aside to cover clean-up costs or insurance policies.

**B6.** The following questions were raised:

- a) Who determines the categorization of operations?
- b) What is the timeline for disclosure of categorization?
- c) Once the categorization is established by the IDB, and disclosed, is there a process by which stakeholders may request a reclassification, with a comprehensive justification?
- d) Who selects the experts for independent expert review? There is a risk of low quality expertise without transparency in the process.

**B7.** Clarify/revise some key terms used in the directive, such as “alternative assessment”. It was suggested that Strategic Environmental Assessment be explicitly stated as an analytical tool within this directive.

**B13.** For multiple phase loans, clarify who presents evidence, and at what point in time that agreed environmental standards have been met. Is it possible that further EIAs are required?

### **Next Steps**

Participants were encouraged to send written comments on the *Draft Policy* document and the *Draft Implementation Guidelines* before the end of the consultation period (March 8<sup>th</sup>). Participants were also informed that a report with a summary of comments from participants and Bank response will be made available to the public following the consultation period. Any comments to this Summary Record may be sent to David Wilk ([davidw@iadb.org](mailto:davidw@iadb.org)) or Ligia Espinosa ([ligiaes@iadb.org](mailto:ligiaes@iadb.org)).