

Environmental and Social Standards Task Force (ESSTF)

Fourth Meeting –May 7, 9 am EDT

Attendees:

Scott Lampman (USAID)
Camila Monteiro (Individual)
Sean Nazerali (BIOFUND, Mozambique)
Geof Giacomini (CNF)
Mirjam de Koning (PONT)
Laura Werner (Blue Action Fund)
Kumar Bhattacharyya (CFA Secretariat)
Kathy Mikitin (Individual, Task Force facilitator)

Minutes of April Meeting

No comments or additions were made to the April 2 minutes which were circulated on April 23.

New Participant

Geof Giacomini joined the group for the first time. Geof has been leading the CNF for about four and a half years. This regional CTF serves Georgia and Armenia and to a lesser extent its third member, Azerbaijan. The CNF provides funding to the Governments for protected areas, and covers mainly operational support and salaries. There is also a small technical assistance program.

As is the case for other CTF members of the task force, CNF is interested in the development of an ESMS model that provides adequate risk protection while it is adapted to a CTF with a small staff size.

ESS Task Force Space

Kumar mentioned that the minutes and documents of the ESS Task Force are now filed in their own space on the CFA website (cfalliance.org). They can be found under the Environmental Funds Working Group.

Partial Survey Results and Next Steps

A WORD table was circulated that showed an initial return of 24 responses (about 47% of the total number of surveys sent out). The main purpose of the table was to have a first look at which CTFs participated, whether or not they had a complete or some elements of an ESMS, what motivated the creation of the ESMS and whether they agreed to share what they had. Seven CTFs have full systems and four have elements of an ESMS. All of the CTFs with full systems are willing to share.

Because questions relating to specific safeguards and risks had many choices, those questions required more time to sort out and organize into useful information. Camila and Sean offered to convert the Google Forms survey into Excel for easier manipulation of the data and organization of the results.

There was consensus that another round of encouragement to CTFs that had not participated could increase the choice of systems the Task Force will look at. Scott agreed to coax his TFCA group and Kathy said she would do likewise for the CTFs she knew could be good candidates. It was agreed to extend the deadline to May 14.

Access to Outside Experts

There was interest in having individuals who had participated in the design of safeguards or ESMS speak to the group about what the essence of an ESMS needs to cover. Charles di Leva, who led the reform of the World Bank's ES Standards had offered to assist the group. Two questions that might be directed to him are how the Bank deals with financial intermediaries (because of the resemblance of CTFs to FIs) and cascading responsibilities (as a way to lessen the burden on CTFs). Once there is more understanding of what the most frequent risks and safeguards being used to address them actually are, area specialists could also be identified.

Next Meeting

The next meeting could take place either May 21 or 28, depending on the time required to clean and organize the survey data, and do some analysis. Progress will be communicated to the Task Force.

Note: Following the meeting, Kathy contacted Charles di Leva. His limited availability resulted in moving the next meeting to May 28 at 10:30 am.