

Environmental and Social Standards Task Force (ESSTF)

Eighth Meeting –July 9 9:00 am EDT

Attendees:

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

Minutes of June 25 Meeting

The draft minutes were approved. Final version will be sent to Kumar for filing in the CFA website ESS Task Force space.

Conceptual Model on Staging Guidance

Scott provided a brief explanation of his intentions and approach to a staged adoption of an ESMS:

The opening statement is key because it establishes fundamental principles underlying the approach and recognizes that CTF structures and capacities vary considerably.

- No CTF is expected to fully fit into a category (stage)
- There should be no value judgment about the stage at which a CTF is at any given point on the continuum
- CTFs will be able to demonstrate progress along the continuum
- Adaptation is expected for CTFs and their grantees

Kathy explained that while this is a very solid and well-thought out approach to staged achievement, several things came to mind because she tried to review the document from the donors' point of view. In a sense, donors are conflicted: they recognize the limitations of CTFs, but nonetheless require highly developed systems and tools. Even the CEPF ESS guidelines and tools, which are considered to be "light" exceed the means of what we are describing for use by CTFs in the early stages of ESMS development. The key to donor buy-in should be the ability to demonstrate good risk management and continuous progress.

Stating even basic principles that the CTF subscribes to at the earliest stages is important. Should something go wrong, statements of what the CTF will do (and will not do) can help the CTF be less vulnerable.

To take into account when developing the model further Task Force members suggested:

- A beginning stage is needed before any work has begun. The CTF can declare some principles, but relies solely on national law. National law is the fundamental starting point because every CTF and grantee are bound by it.
- Clarity is needed on whether each element of a stage represents what reality requires or what there should ideally be. Is each stage the state of the art or what is recommended?
- Perhaps there is a Stage 6 which would be the comprehensive ESMS of Stage 5 with the addition of a risk management database. While a database might be desirable, it is not clear that this is currently a donor requirement.
- Technical themes (E&S Safeguards) listed at the bottom of the spreadsheet may need to be addressed in increasingly sophisticated ways at different stages.
- There is a need to introduce gender in a simple way in the early stages, even at a stage 0 (e.g. start with gender mapping) to begin preparing CTFs to address that topic.
- The staged conceptual model needs to be fleshed out with conditions, criteria, the enabling environment, costs, etc. to educate other CTFs and donors.
- An external grievance mechanism may need to be introduced at the early stages given its importance as a safety valve if something goes wrong.

A small group of Camila, Geof and Kathy will try to move the model to the next level by fleshing out practical steps that CTFs might take at each stage.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 30 at 9 am EDT. The focus of the meeting will be on the expanded version of the Conceptual Model of a Staged Approach to adopting an ESMS which will be prepared by the small group.

