



THE WORLD BANK

IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

Operations Policy & Country Services

Setting Standards for Sustainable Development

Update and Review of the
World Bank's Safeguard
Policies

Why the Review?



World Bank Group Commitment

*“The World Bank Group is committed to supporting countries in reducing poverty and building shared prosperity in a sustainable manner.”**

- **To end poverty and promote shared prosperity** all aspects of social and environmental sustainability must be taken into consideration
- **Protecting the environment and the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people** in our projects are central to this vision

A Changing World

- Issues our clients face have changed dramatically over the last 20 years
- Many clients' as well as the World Bank's ability to manage these issues have significantly improved
- World Bank modernization effort
- 2010 IEG evaluation [*Safeguards and Sustainability Policies in a Changing World: An Independent Evaluation of World Bank Group Experience*](#)
- 2012/2013 multi-stakeholder consultation underlined need for change

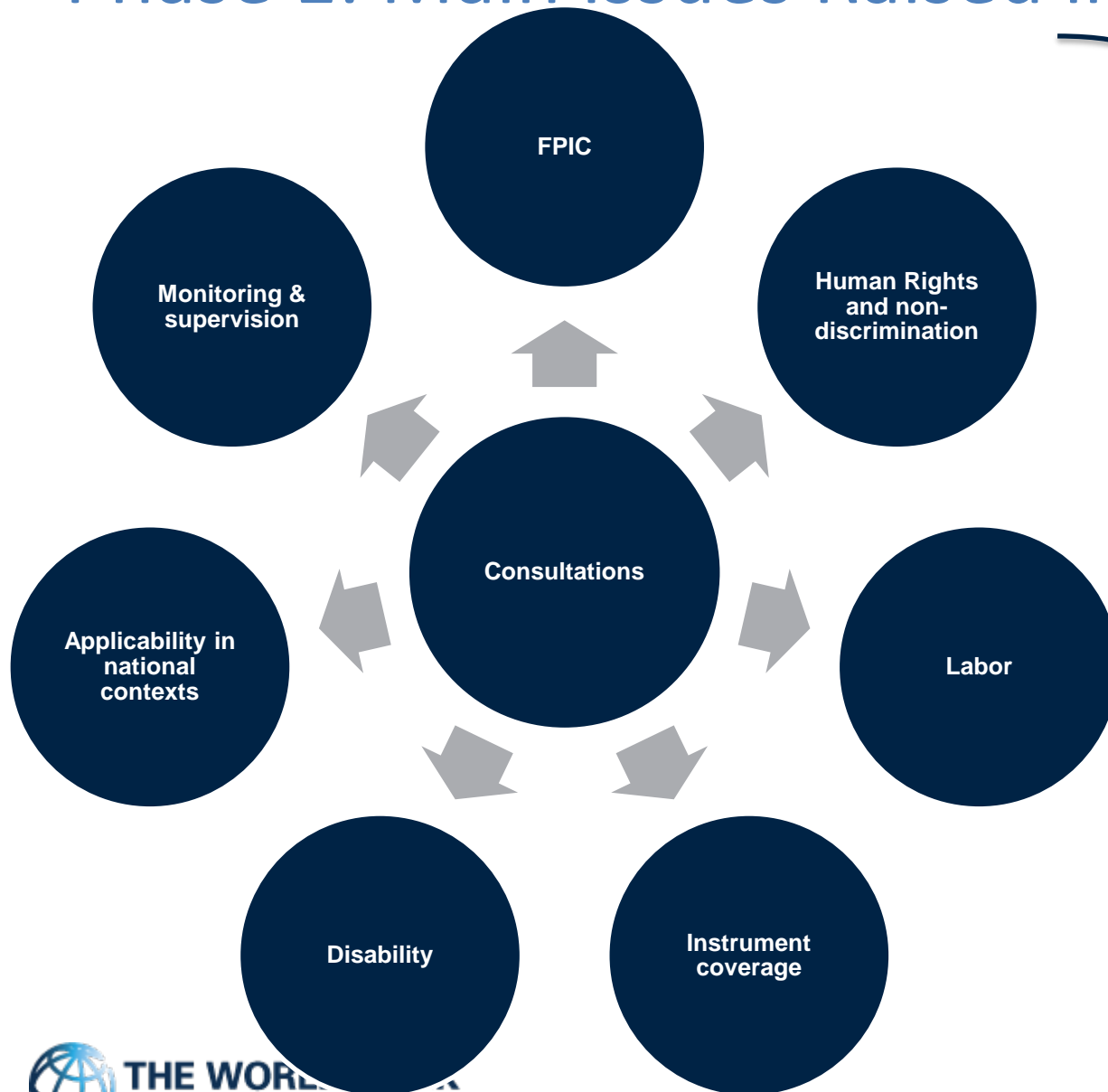
Consultations



Phase 1: A Look Back to 2012/2013

- Views from stakeholders from over 40 countries (civil society, government, private sector, academia, development partners etc.)
- Written submissions from civil society organizations, governments, academia etc.
- Expert focus groups on 7 emerging areas
 - Land Tenure and Natural Resources
 - Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples
 - Labor and Occupational Health and Safety
 - Climate Change
 - Human Rights
 - Disability
 - Gender
- Dedicated Indigenous Peoples Dialogue
- Dialogue with project-affected communities

Phase 1: Main Issues Raised in Consultations



Draft framework addresses these issues and has sought a balanced approach in the first draft. Please let us hear your views in this consultation phase.

Phase 2: Consultation Process

- 37 countries planned (TBC), incl. 25 borrowing countries
 - **Consultation phase extended to January 31**
 - Dedicated **Indigenous Peoples** consultations
 - Topical **expert consultations**
- Meeting summaries and participant lists to be published on [website](#)
- Additional feedback channels (forum, comments on individual Standards) through [website](#)

Proposed Framework



Our Goal

Stronger risk management with greater clarity of roles and broader coverage of risk

Communities will receive **broader and enhanced protection** for their lives, livelihoods and environment.

Implementers' projects will have **better development results** through outcomes-focused approach, improved design and improved implementation measures.

For **the Bank**, **stronger accountability and new rules that will add more social and environmental protection** in a way that enables us to be more responsive to our clients.

The Proposed Framework

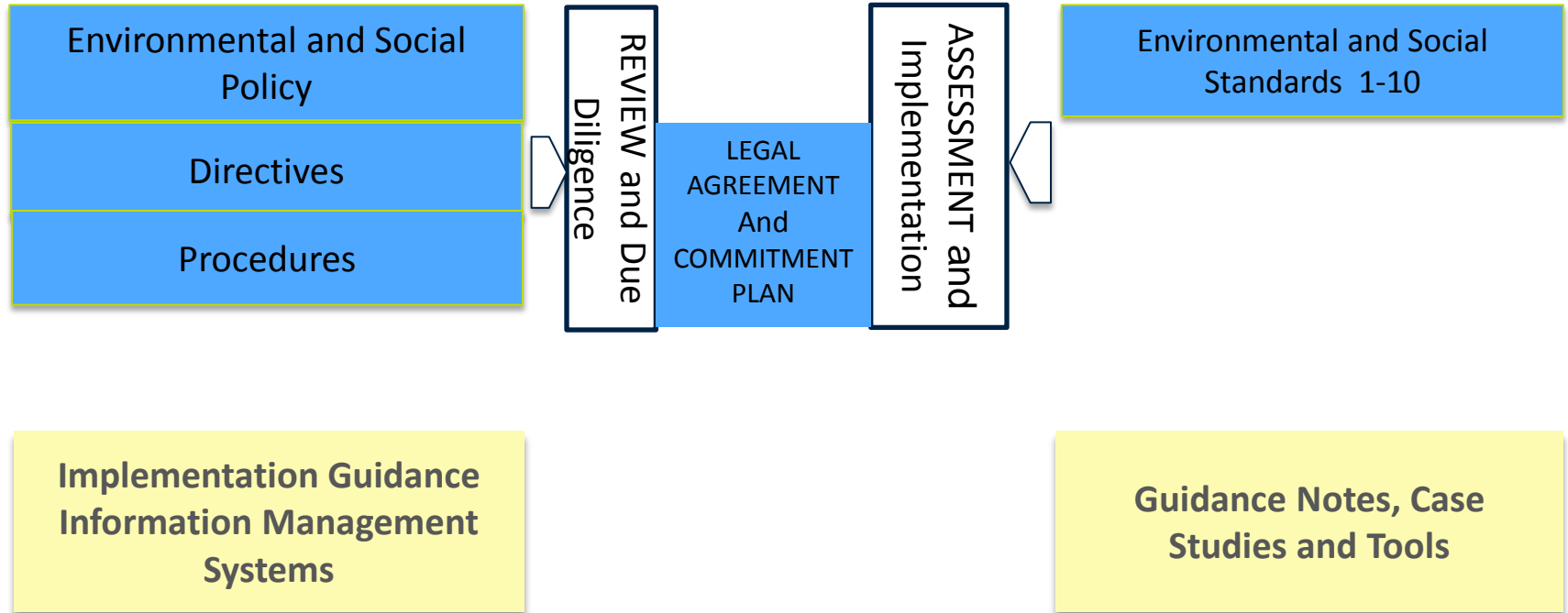
- Builds on existing safeguards and **preserves Bank core values**
- Presents a **modernized, risk-based, outcome-focused** approach to protecting the environment and people
- Puts strong emphasis on risk management and **achieving sustainable development outcomes** over the life of the project
- Broadens social assessment and management of **environmental and social risks**
- Provides greater **clarity** of the roles and responsibilities of the World Bank and Borrower
- Increases **harmonization** with development partners and recognized good international practices
- Renews and strengthens **partnership with borrowers**

Framework Structure

World Bank Vision Statement on Sustainability

World Bank Responsibilities

Borrower Responsibilities



■ Mandatory elements of the proposed Framework

■ Non-mandatory elements of the proposed Framework

Bank and Borrower Roles

Borrower's Role:

Specified in the 10 Environmental and Social Standards.

- As now, borrowing country is responsible for assessing, managing and monitoring environmental and social risks and impacts in Bank-financed projects
- Based on E&S assessment, Bank and borrower would agree on specific Commitment Plan to mitigate risks (with clear timelines)

The Bank's role:

**Detailed in the proposed policy.
Bank responsible for:**

- reviewing assessments and helping Borrower to develop measures and actions required compliance with standards
- Strengthening/ promoting use of Borrower's environmental and social institutions and laws
- Agreeing with Borrower on the measures/ actions in the ESCP
- Ensuring rigorous implementation of E&S assessment and commitment plan

Common issues raised in consultations*	Draft Framework
Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)	Introduces FPIC in key circumstances
Address children's rights	Prohibits child labor in Bank-funded projects, introduces enhanced social due diligence
Labor protections according to international models	Introduces labor standard with elements of ILO International Labor Standards
Non-discrimination as principle	Establishes non-discrimination as core principle
Integrated approach to disability issues	Includes disability in non-discrimination principle, introduces enhanced social due diligence
Integrated approach to SOGIE issues	Includes SOGIE in non-discrimination principle, introduces enhanced social due diligence
Instrument coverage	World Bank to conduct separate review of PforR and DPL with special attention to safeguards
Enhanced stakeholder engagement and better grievance mechanisms	Proposes dedicated Standard on stakeholder engagement, incl. grievance mechanisms, throughout project cycle

Common issues raised in consultations*	Draft framework
Human rights	Includes provisions throughout to help borrowers meet their human rights obligations and aspirations (while respecting that the bank cannot use the safeguards to enforce human rights)
Protect biodiversity	Introduces dedicated Standard on biodiversity protection and sustainable management of living natural resources
Address pollution and climate change issues	Introduces requirement for resource efficiency and pollution abatement, provides focus on greenhouse gas emissions
Capacity building and institution strengthening	Builds capacity through working with and improving Borrower environmental and social frameworks
Strong risk management approach	Introduces risk rating, requires adaptive risk management throughout project life cycle, enhances ability to identify and address risks that may arise after initial assessment
Improve supervision and compliance	Introduces stronger focus on supervision and compliance, enhances project management and supervision requirements
Clearer roles and responsibilities of Bank and Borrower	Clearly defines roles/responsibilities of Bank and Borrower in each Standard
Harmonization	Increases harmonization with other MDBs and across WBG

Complex issues



Non-Discrimination

Proposal

- Establish non-discrimination as **core principle** in accordance with commitment to protecting the poor and other vulnerable groups from adverse impacts caused by World Bank-financed projects
 - Provide for stronger assessment of **discrimination toward individuals or groups**
 - Address discrimination
- Non-discrimination principle addresses **disability** and **SOGIE**, among other issues

Labor and Working Conditions

Proposal

- Require Borrowers to address **key labor-related issues**
- Prohibit **child and forced labor**
- Build on national requirements
- Incorporate principle of **non-discrimination/equal opportunity** in employment in Bank projects
 - Employment of project workers based on the principle of equal opportunity and **fair treatment**

Indigenous Peoples

Proposal

- Move from Free, Prior, Informed, Consultation to Free, Prior and Informed **Consent**
- Address issues requested by IP stakeholders:
 - **Voluntary Isolation, pastoralism, risk of internal conflict**
- Introduce alternative approach in case of internal conflict:
 - **Exception** rather than the rule
 - Context specific
 - **Open and accountable** process for consideration
 - Approval of alternative approach by **World Bank** Board
 - Safeguards/protects IPs using other ESSs

Land and Involuntary Resettlement

Proposal

- Acknowledge potential adverse impacts through project-related land acquisition and restrictions on land use
- Make all types of potential conflicts concerning land access an explicit focus of environmental and social assessment
- Build on existing protections and clarify protections related to land and involuntary resettlement
- Commit to supporting **land rights of Indigenous Peoples**
- **Avoid or minimize involuntary resettlement; no forced eviction; and mitigate any adverse impacts** through compensation and assistance

Biodiversity

Proposal

- Introduce **more specific and stringent** requirements for biodiversity conservation
- Introduce more **clarity** on how risks and adverse impacts on natural habitats must be mitigated
- Ensure that Bank funds will not be used to finance or support projects that would involve a **significant conversion or degradation** of critical habitats
- Allow offsets only in exceptional circumstances and as **last resort**

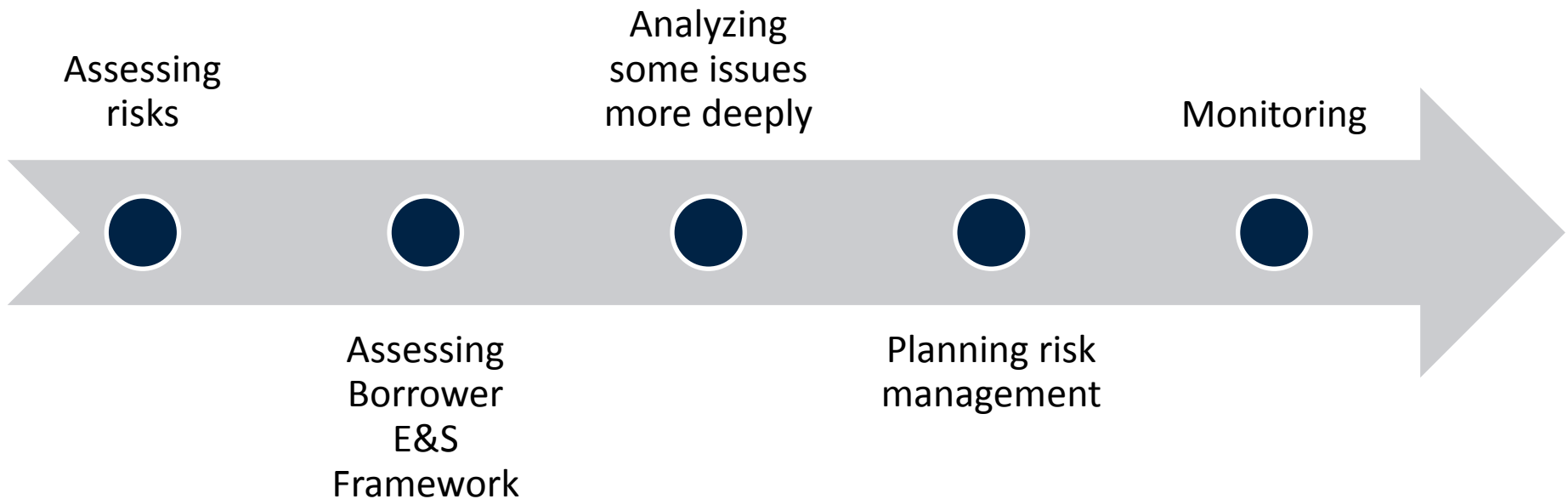
Human Rights

Proposal

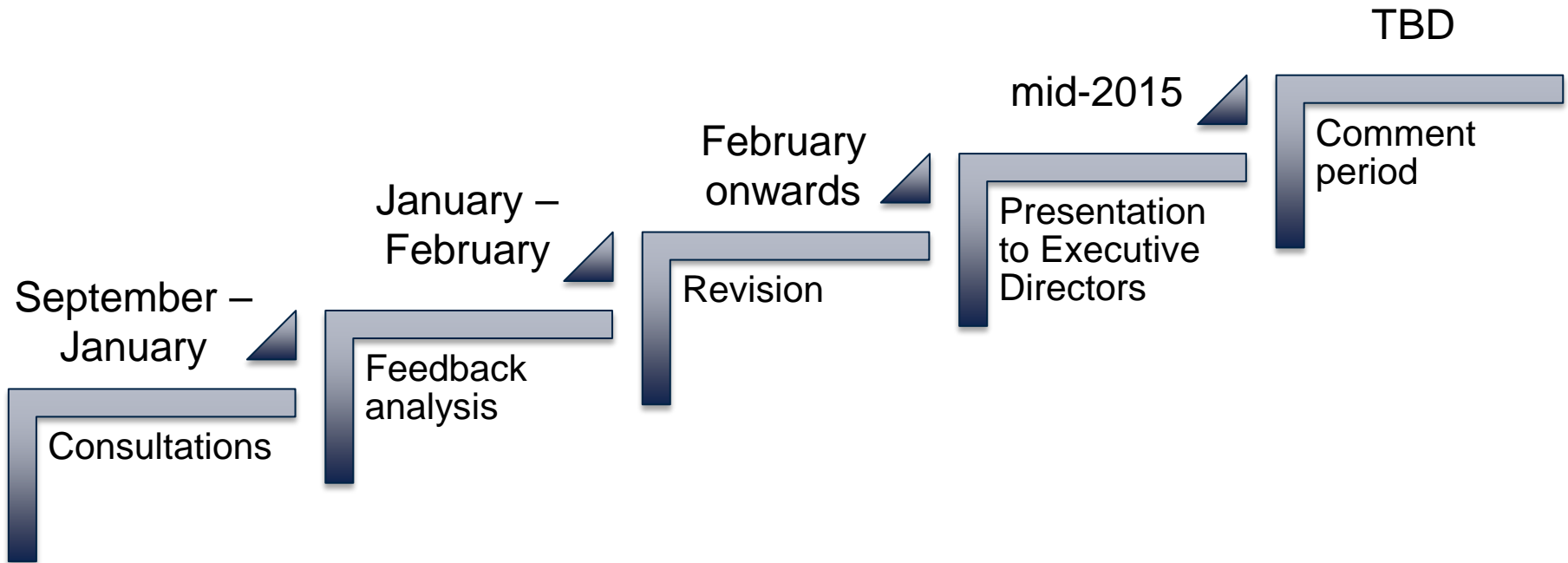
- Ensure that World Bank operations are **supportive of human rights** and encourage respect for them in a manner consistent with the Bank's Articles of Agreement
- Enlarge scope of the proposed standards through required assessment of a range of **issues that directly relate to human rights concerns** (such as non-discrimination, gender, disability, and children)

Adaptive Risk Management

- Assess risks prior to project approval, but recognize that deeper analysis of some issues may be required during project implementation
- Environmental and social requirements agreed in legally binding, time-bound commitment plan, enforced by conditionality



Next Steps



Discussion

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<http://consultations.worldbank.org/consultation/review-and-update-world-bank-safeguard-policies>

