



The Inspection Panel

THE WORLD BANK
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ACCOUNTABILITY MATTERS

JULY 2015

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Nepal Investigation

Power Development Project investigation report released alongside Bank Management Action Plan.

Panel Chair Re-Elected

Gonzalo Castro de la Mata is re-elected Chairperson for an additional year.

Blog on Kenya

Jan Mattson reflects on his fact finding visit to Hells Gate to investigate a resettlement complaint.

Turkey Workshop

Panel organized CSO Outreach Workshop in May with over 30 CSO representatives from the ECA region.

Accountability Series

Panel recently launched "Accountability Dialogue Series" to promote discussion around issues of accountability and compliance.

ABOUT THE PANEL

The Board of Executive Directors created the Inspection Panel in 1993 to promote accountability and improve development results at the World Bank. The Panel is an independent complaints mechanism for people and communities who believe that they have been, or are likely to be, adversely affected by a World Bank-funded project and wish to seek redress. For more information visit:

www.inspectionpanel.org

FEATURE

POWER DEVELOPMENT (NEPAL) - Board Meets to Discuss Panel Report



The Panel received a Complaint in July 2013 concerning the Power Development Project (PDP) in Nepal which is addressing the country's chronic energy shortages. The Request was submitted by 103 indigenous and non-indigenous families from three villages of the Sindhuli District. The Request raised instances of harm or potential harm related to displacement, compensation, cultural and health issues due to the construction of a high voltage transmission line in their community. The Complainants also stated that they were not adequately informed and consulted on the design and location of the transmission line. The Panel submitted its Investigation Report to the Board of Executive Directors in February 2015, and Management's Report and Recommendation was sent to the Board on March 2015. The Board, which met on July 13, 2015 to discuss the Panel report, thanked the Panel for its "rigorous assessment" of the problems raised by the community, and approved the Management Action Plan which focuses on "amicably resolving" the outstanding issues. The Panel and Board reports and joint press release are posted on our website. [More.](#)

ACTIVE CASES

ELECTRICITY EXPANSION (KENYA) - Panel Completes Investigation Report

Several *Maasai* communities in the Rift Valley Area in Kenya submitted a Complaint to the Panel in October 2014 raising concerns about resettlement (compensation and livelihood restoration), consultations, cultural heritage and their identification as Indigenous Peoples as a result of a recently installed geothermal power plant. The Panel and the Complaints Mechanism of the European Investment Bank (EIB) conducted a joint investigation visit to Kenya in March 2015 to assess the situation. After meeting with a wide range of stakeholders in Kenya and conferring with resettlement experts, the Panel submitted its Investigation Report to the Board of Executive Directors on July 02, 2015. The Board is expected to meet and discuss both the Panel and Management's Recommendation Reports in the next few months. [More](#)



MINING INFRASTRUCTURE (MONGOLIA) - Panel Completed Site Visit



The Panel registered, on February 10, 2015, a Complaint received from several local Mongolian and Russian community groups concerning the Mining Infrastructure Investment Support Project (MINIS) which is an IDA credit of US\$25m geared to install energy infrastructure to support mining operations. The Complainants state that if the feasibility studies of the *Shuren* Dam and the *Orkhon Gobi* Water Diversion projects go forward, they could have severe impacts on communities in Mongolia and on Russia's Lake Baikal, which is a World Heritage Site. A Panel Team visited the project site areas in Mongolia and Russia in May 2015 and met with a wide range of stakeholders. The Panel submitted to the Board its Report and Recommendation on July 02, 2015. [More.](#)

RECENT COMPLAINTS

ENERGY SECTOR (KOSOVO) - Panel Will Visit Site Soon

The Panel received a Complaint from residents of *Hade* and *Obiliq* municipalities in Kosovo on June 12, 2015. The Complaint concerns three Bank-financed operations involving resettlement, land reclamation, and regulatory framework undertaken in preparation for the Kosovo Power Project which the Bank is considering financing. The Complaint identifies several harms related to loss of land, reduced livelihoods, restrictions on economic development, and displacement due to the expansion of a coal mine. The Panel registered the Request on June 30, 2015, and will undertake a site visit in August to assess if the Request meets the Panel's eligibility criteria and if the harms merit an investigation. [More](#)

BLOGS

Impressions from a Visit to Hells Gate



Jan Mattsson, a Member of Panel, shares his impressions from a fact finding trip he took in March 2015 to the Hell's Gate National Park area in Kenya. This was part of a joint investigation visit undertaken with the European Investment Bank's compliance unit, to assess the complaints made by four *Maasai* indigenous communities about problems related to resettlement and loss of livelihood due to the installation of geothermal plants on their ancestral lands. Jan spent nearly a week visiting local sites and meeting with villagers, government officials, local Bank staff, and other stakeholders. This was his first investigation with the Panel and it served to confirm that the truism that 'every case is unique, and that every case is complex' is indeed true. He also reflected on the pros and cons of undertaking a joint investigation with a sister agency. [More](#)

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Spring Meetings Sessions

The Panel hosted two large policy dialogue sessions during the WBG/IMF Spring Meetings on April 16 – 17, 2015. The first, titled "Accountability for Better Development Outcomes: A Conversation with Government, Industry and Civil Society" was jointly sponsored with the CAO. [More](#). The second was the "Accountability Mechanisms and Indigenous Peoples Rights: Experiences from the Field" co-hosted with the [Forest People's Programme](#). [More](#)



Accountability Dialogue Series



The Panel held the first event of a new "Accountability Dialogue Series" to promote discussion around issues of accountability and compliance. The "Leveraging Science to Promote Environmentally Sustainable Infrastructure" was held on May 28, 2015 and focused on innovative approaches to using science to mitigate the potentially negative environmental and social impacts of large infrastructure projects. [More](#)

Paper Published on Voice and Accountability

Two Inspection Panel staff members – *Dilek Barlas* (Executive Secretary) and *Tatiana Tassoni* (Senior Operations Officer) – published a chapter entitled "Improving Service Delivery through Voice and Accountability" in the 6th Volume of the World Bank Legal Review. The paper is one of several chapters on the Panel in the recently published 6th volume of the World Bank Legal Review, *Improving Delivery in Development: The Role of Voice, Social Contract, and Accountability*. [More](#)



OUTREACH

Meeting with SOGIE Delegation



The heads and staff of the Inspection Panel and the Compliance Advisory Ombudsman (CAO) met with Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) activists from over a dozen countries on April 14 in Washington, D.C. They discussed ways to promote greater respect and tolerance for sexual orientation and gender identity choices within Bank-financed projects. [More](#)

Turkey CSO Outreach Workshop

The Panel organized a CSO Outreach Workshop with other Independent Accountability Mechanisms (IAMs) in Istanbul, Turkey on May 12 – 13, 2015. Over 30 CSO Representatives from Turkey and 10 other countries from the Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region participated. The purpose of the two-day event was geared to sharing information about the compliance work of the IAMs; listening to CSO experiences in engaging these mechanisms; and exchanging views and ideas on how to strengthen accountability principles and practices in the ECA region. [More](#)



Gambia CSO Meeting



Conscience International (CI) and the Panel organized a CSO outreach meeting in Banjul, Gambia on 19 April 2015 for CSO delegates attending the 56th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights. Over 40 CSO representatives from over a dozen African and European countries participated in the event, which was held within the associated NGO Forum. [More](#)

Twitter Account Launched

The Panel recently launched a [Twitter](#) account to more quickly disseminate information on complaints registration, investigation report releases, and events. We welcome your input and views [@InspectionPanel](#) thus please follow us!



PANEL NEWS

Gonzalo Castro de la Mata Re-Elected as Panel Chair



Panel Members have re-elected *Gonzalo Castro de la Mata* as Chairperson of the Inspection Panel for an additional year. He was originally appointed as Chairperson on November 1, 2014. His new term will expire on October 31, 2016. [More](#)

Truman Interns

The Panel welcomed two Truman Scholar student interns – *Jordan Burns* (University of Colorado) and *Taylor Ulmer* (Spellman College) – over the summer to undertake several research projects. [More](#)



CONTACT US

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