MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INSPECTION PANEL REVIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

WESTERN EUROPE-WESTERN CHINA INTERNATIONAL TRANSIT CORRIDOR (CAREC-1b & 6b) – SOUTH WEST ROADS PROJECT (IBRD LOAN NO. 7681-KZ)

Management has reviewed the Request for Inspection of the Republic of Kazakhstan: Western Europe-Western China International Transit Corridor (CAREC-lb & 6b) – South West Roads Project (IBRD Loan No. 7681-KZ), registered by the Inspection Panel on August 17, 2011 (RQ11/02). Management has prepared the following response.

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(Exchange Rate Effective: September 1, 2011)

Currency Unit = Kazakhstan Tenge (KZT)

US\$1.00 = KZT 146.575

GOVERNMENT FISCAL YEAR:

January 1 – December 31

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES:

Metric System

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

APL Adaptable Programmatic Loan

BP Bank Procedure

CAREC Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation

EA Environmental Assessment

EARF Environmental Assessment Review Framework

EIA Environmental Impact Assessment EMP Environmental Management Plan

IBRD International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

IFI International Financial Institution

IPN Inspection Panel

MoTC Ministry of Transport and Communications

NGO Nongovernmental Organization
OP Operation Policy (of the World Bank)
PMC Project Management Consultants

RAP Resettlement Action Plan

RPF Resettlement Policy Framework

SIL Specific Investment Loan

WE-WC Western Europe – Western China

CONTENTS

EXE	CUT	IVE SUMMARYi	
I.	INT	RODUCTION 1	
II.	THE REQUEST		
III.	PRC	OJECT BACKGROUND2	
	A.	The Project	
	B.	Project Objective	
	C.	Project Components	
IV.	SPE	CIAL ISSUES 6	
V.	MA	NAGEMENT'S RESPONSE9	
	A.	The Claim by an Affected Person in Turkestan Rayon	
	B.	Issues associated with Yntymak Roadway Redesign	
	C.	Issues associated with Temirlanovka Bypass EIA	
	D.	Allegations regarding Premature Start of Works in Sairam Rayon	
VI.	CON	NCLUSION 14	
Ann	exes		
Anne	ex 1.	Claims and Responses	
Anne	ex 2.	Overview of Supervision Missions and Site Visits (July 2010 to August 2011)	
Anno	ex 3.	List of the Bank's Relevant Communications with the Lead Requester (November 2010 – August 2011)	
Мар	S		
Map Map		IBRD 38814 IBRD 38815	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On August 17, 2011, the Inspection Panel registered a Request for Inspection, (hereafter referred to as "the Request"), concerning the Republic of Kazakhstan: Western Europe-Western China International Transit Corridor (CAREC-lb & 6b) – South West Roads Project (IBRD Loan No. 7681-KZ) financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD, the Bank). The Inspection Panel has previously registered a Request for Inspection (IPN Request RQ 10/04) on April 29, 2010, concerning the same Project (the First Request).

The Project

The Kazakhstan: Western Europe-Western China International Transit Corridor (CAREC-lb & 6b) – South West Roads Project (the Project) was approved by the Board of Executive Directors on April 30, 2009 and is currently under implementation.

The Project is a major part of the overall Government led effort to develop the Western Europe to Western China (WE-WC) Transit Corridor. The specific Project Development Objective (PDO) is to increase transport efficiency along the road sections between the Aktobe/Kyzylorda oblast border and Shymkent and to improve road management and traffic safety in Kazakhstan.

This will be achieved through: (a) Upgrading and reconstruction of 1,062 km of road sections within South Kazakhstan and Kyzylorda *oblasts* (regions); (b) Strengthening the capacity of the Committee for Roads and implementing a road management system for planning and budgeting of road maintenance, rehabilitation and construction on the national road network; (c) Increasing the capacity of the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) and the Committee for Roads to monitor and supervise Project implementation with particular emphasis on procurement, financial management and safeguards; and (d) Improving road safety and facilitating the provision of services along the WE-WC Corridor.

Request for Inspection

The Request for Inspection was submitted by a representative of the Kazakh nongovernmental organization (NGO), *The National Analytical Information Resource Public Association (NAIR)*, on his own behalf and on behalf of NAIR and 24 Project Affected Persons.

The Request raises issues related to potential loss of assets and livelihood in connection with land acquisition for the Project, as well as potential adverse environmental impacts with regard to different sections of the Project. These claims are focused on the following four issues:

- A claim by an individual in Turkestan Rayon that Bank omissions may result in failure to compensate adequately for assets and investments due to land acquisition.
- A claim that the roadway design through a densely populated area of the Yntymak neighborhood would generate environmental harm, such as noise and safety concerns.
- A claim that their comments on the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Temirlanovka Bypass section of the Project have not been taken into account and that the current draft EIA does not adequately assess the environmental impact of the proposed bypass.
- A claim that a contractor operating in Sairam Rayon initiated works on lands for which compensation to owners or leaseholders had not yet been finalized.

Management Response

In Management's view the Request for Inspection is based on assumed harmful outcomes of ongoing activities and a misplaced assumption that no actions are being taken to address the issues raised by the Requesters. All issues referred to in the Request have been acknowledged by the Bank and by the Committee for Roads and are being addressed through the appropriate channels, such as the Project's grievance redress mechanism, local courts, the akimats, the Committee for Roads, and the Bank, as relevant. Management considers that the issues raised are typical for a project of this scope and complexity and recognizes that such issues need to be identified and addressed as they arise in the course of Project implementation, as is being done. Some of the issues are also similar to Project issues that were satisfactorily addressed in the First Request for Inspection of this Project.

With respect to the claim concerning pending compensation by the individual in Turkestan Rayon, the Bank has made clear its position to the Turkestan Rayon akimat and to the Committee for Roads that works that affect this property cannot begin until the issue is resolved. Management wishes to point out that the Requester's rightful ownership of the respective plot including the question of the plot's actual size is currently being considered by a civil court in Kazakhstan. The compensation process stipulated in the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) will build on the outcome of this court case and the Requester will be eligible for compensation or assistance under the RAP in line with Bank policy.

With respect to the issues associated with the Yntymak roadway redesign, Management notes that the Bank and the Committee for Roads have remained actively engaged in responding to community concerns. In fact, the redesign process being undertaken is in response to earlier community concerns. The Committee for Roads is actively working on a solution to address the concerns raised by local residents. In accordance with the Loan Agreement, the Government has committed to resolving all design issues in a manner consistent with Bank policy requirements before beginning any works in this vicinity.

With respect to the issues associated with the EIA for the Temirlanovka Bypass, Management agrees that effective and timely public consultation is essential. Management, however, wishes to point out that the EIA referred to in the Request is regarded by the Bank as a draft which currently is not at a sufficiently advanced stage for meaningful public consultation. The Bank has advised the Borrower that consultations should occur as soon as possible after the Bank finds the draft EIA acceptable for this purpose. Therefore any claim of violation of Bank policy in connection with this issue is premature. The Bank will continue to support the Committee for Roads in its efforts to prepare an EIA that will be acceptable.

With respect to the allegations of a premature start of works in Sairam Rayon, Management has made its position clear to the Committee for Roads that resolution of remaining issues is necessary before works can proceed on the one land parcel for which compensation is still in dispute. Management understands that one contractor was misinformed and prematurely entered privately leased land for one day prior to the payment of compensation to the property lease holders. Management was advised by the Committee for Roads that the contractor immediately withdrew from the property upon instruction from the Committee for Roads, and no material harm was caused during the one day of incursion. Management notes that the Committee for Roads has been responsive on this matter and that compensation has subsequently been paid to seven out of the eight affected Requesters in accordance with the RAP for the Project. Management notes that the Requesters do not claim that any material harm resulted from the incursion. The Bank continues to seek confirmation that no harm has occurred.

Management is concerned that the multiple roles of the Lead Requester in relation to this Project contribute to premature claims and reflect a potential conflict of interest on his part. The Lead Requester has taken the initiative, on an ongoing basis throughout the implementation of the Project, of actively collecting individual concerns and communicating such issues to the Project's grievance redress mechanism and directly to the Bank. Management notes the role that the Lead Requester has performed in bringing potential issues to the attention of the Bank and to the Committee for Roads, though in most cases those issues were already known and in the process of being resolved. However, Management has increasing concern about the role of the Lead Requester in two areas: firstly, that actions of the Lead Requester have the effect of escalating these issues under the assumption of a harmful outcome before the ongoing efforts to resolve them have been exhausted; secondly, that the Lead Requester's other activities in connection with the Project may lead to confusion or even a conflict of interest on his part. Management notes that the Lead Requester was involved as a consultant to the road designers hired by the Committee for Roads, and was responsible for organizing public consultations on the EIA for the Temirlanovka Bypass, obtaining clearances for the document from relevant authorities, and performing other administrative duties on behalf of the road designers.

This Project has multiple channels to identify and address issues promptly and on an ongoing basis. The Project has supplemented the existing domestic channels for grievance redress with a project level grievance mechanism which provides for

grievance coordinators appointed by the supervision consultant for each section of the road. Project supervision has been carried out regularly by a high level interdisciplinary team of Bank staff and the Bank has allocated a significantly higher supervision budget to this Project. In addition, Regional management, including the ECAVP, the Country Director and the Sector Manager have on various occasions visited the Project sites and stressed to senior Government officials the importance of providing an effective and responsive grievance redress mechanism, as well as ensuring strict compliance with all relevant safeguard policies of the Bank.

Management believes that the Bank has made diligent efforts to apply its policies and procedures in the context of the planning for, and implementation of, this Project. In Management's view, the Bank has followed its policies and procedures applicable to the matters raised by the Request. Management believes that neither the Requesters' rights nor interests have been adversely affected by a failure of the Bank to implement its policies and procedures. Management welcomes the opportunity to clarify the issues and questions raised by the Requesters.

I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. On August 17, 2011, the Inspection Panel registered a Request for Inspection, IPN Request RQ 11/02 (hereafter referred to as "the Request"), concerning the Republic of Kazakhstan: Western Europe—Western China International Transit Corridor (CAREC-lb & 6b) South West Roads Project (IBRD Loan No. 7681-KZ, the Project) financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD, the Bank). The Inspection Panel has previously registered a Request for Inspection (IPN Request RQ 10/04) on April 29, 2010, concerning the same Project (the First Request).
- 2. Structure of the Report. The document contains the following sections: Section II presents the Request; Section III provides background on the Project; Section IV discusses special issues related to the Request; Section V presents Management's response and Section VI contains the conclusion. Annex 1 presents the Requesters' claims, together with Management's detailed responses, in matrix format. Other Annexes include an overview of supervision missions and site visits, and a list of the Bank's relevant communications with the Lead Requester. Map 1 shows the Project area and Map 2 shows details of the locations of affected areas described in the Request.

II. THE REQUEST

- 3. The Request for Inspection was submitted by a representative of the Kazakh nongovernmental organization (NGO) "National Analytical Information Resource" (hereafter "NAIR"), on his own behalf ¹ and on behalf of NAIR and 24 Project Affected Persons (hereafter referred to as the "Requesters"). The Request was complemented by clarifications which are included as part of the Request.
- 4. No further materials were received by Management in support of the Request.
- 5. The Request contains claims that the Panel has indicated may constitute violations by the Bank of various provisions of its policies and procedures, including the following:
 - OP/BP 4.01, Environmental Assessment
 - OP/BP 4.04, Natural Habitats
 - OP/BP 4.12, Involuntary Resettlement
 - OP/BP 13.05, Project Supervision
 - OMS 2.20, Project Appraisal
 - The World Bank Policy on Access to Information dated July 1, 2010.

1

¹ While the Notice of Registration states that the Request was submitted by the Lead Requester, a representative of NAIR, "on his own behalf and on behalf of NAIR and 24 Project-affected people," it is not clear from the Request whether the Lead Requester is indeed claiming on his own behalf, the harm to which his claim might relate and which Bank policy or procedure may have been violated.

III. PROJECT BACKGROUND

A. THE PROJECT

- 6. The strategic vision of the Government of Kazakhstan for economic development is based on diversification and integration of the economy into the global market. This requires both investment in the economic sectors as well as improvements in the investment climate. The geography, population, economy and trade flows of Central Asia have an important bearing on transportation challenges in Kazakhstan. Within the region, distances are substantial (around 3,000 km across Kazakhstan) and access to major markets involves very long travel distances. There are significant physical and non-physical barriers to trade within the region, which have been the subject of discussion at the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC).² Trade with Russia continues to be important for the region mainly for historical reasons, with much of this trade transiting through Kazakhstan. China is growing in importance as a trading partner for Central Asia, with Kazakhstan taking the largest share. The CAREC countries have designated six major international transport corridors that link Central Asia with China, Russia, South Caucasus, South Asia, Turkey and Western Europe. The Project is financing improvements to parts of the CAREC corridors that pass through Kazakhstan.
- 7. The overall objectives for the transport sector in Kazakhstan are identified in the Government's Transport Sector Development Strategy 2006-2015 and the Road Sector Development Program 2006-2012. These Government documents define investment programs that include rehabilitation of the Republican (National) road network and the provision of selected additional infrastructure, particularly along the CAREC corridors. The transport strategy also aims to harmonize current legislation with international norms and standards and the promotion of innovative technologies. The strategy also includes as an objective the provision of services to users along the corridors, including improvements in road safety. Roads are a key element of the Kazakhstan transport system, playing an important role in the provision of basic access to rural areas, in addition to providing essential transit corridors for trade. Much of the road network was constructed during the Soviet era and has significantly deteriorated due to lack of adequate maintenance. While financing for the road sector has considerably increased over the past decade, the main reasons for poor performance of the roads are the lack of proper planning, insufficient institutional capacity and a rapid growth in motorization brought about by the transition to a free-market economy after the collapse of the Soviet Union.
- 8. The Project was conceived as part of the Government's strategy to stimulate economic growth and reduce poverty in the poorest parts of the country, by improving access to the two concerned regions, as well as providing employment in the construction sector and related services. Not only will the Project provide efficient

2

² CAREC comprises: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, People's Republic of China (focusing on Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

transport links for the poorest regions of Kazakhstan, it will also provide an efficient transit corridor for other countries in the region, particularly Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic. The improvement of the corridor will facilitate movements of goods and people and will improve road safety. It will also facilitate industrial, agricultural, and commercial activities, with improved trade and services along the road and in adjacent towns and cities.

9. The Government's Road Sector Development Program includes financing for improvements to the 2,840 km road corridor linking Western Europe to Western China through Kazakhstan and Russia. The overall objective of the Program is to improve transport efficiency and safety, and promote development along one of Kazakhstan's main strategic road transport corridors. Transport and trade efficiency are expected to be improved through provision of better infrastructure and services along the entire corridor, leading to reduced transport costs, and gradual reforms of the entities responsible for all categories of roads in Kazakhstan.

B. PROJECT OBJECTIVE

- 10. The Bank financed Project is a major part of the overall Government led effort to develop the WE-WC Transit Corridor. The specific Project Development Objective (PDO) is to increase transport efficiency along the road sections between the Aktobe/Kyzylorda oblast border and Shymkent and to improve road management and traffic safety in Kazakhstan. This will be achieved through:
 - Upgrading and reconstruction of 1,062 km of road sections within South Kazakhstan and Kyzylorda oblasts along the WE-WC Corridor from the Aktobe/Kyzylorda oblast border to Shymkent (including the northern bypass to Shymkent city);
 - Strengthening the capacity of the Committee for Roads and implementing a road management system for planning and budgeting of road maintenance, rehabilitation and construction on the Republican road network;
 - Increasing the capacity of the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) and the Committee for Roads to monitor and supervise Project implementation with particular emphasis on procurement, financial management and safeguards; and
 - Improving road safety and facilitating the provision of services along the WE-WC Corridor.
- 11. The Project will lead to more efficient and safer transport, lower road transport costs, improved traffic safety, and better road services along the WE-WC Corridor. For the Project objectives to be fully achieved it was recognized that there is a need to strengthen the planning and management capacity of the Committee for Roads in order to improve the efficiency of Project implementation and the utilization of resources allocated to the sector, and hence lower the economic costs of transport nationally and particularly along sections of the WE-WC Corridor. The Project will also assist in developing plans for improving road safety and road services. This will lead to lower

social costs stemming from reduced road traffic injuries and improved movement of goods and passengers.

C. PROJECT COMPONENTS

12. The Project comprises five components:

- Component 1: Upgrade and reconstruction of road sections within Kyzylorda oblast (excluding the bypass to Kyzylorda), estimated at a total cost of US\$1,334.5 million equivalent, excluding physical and price contingencies, and the costs of consulting services for supervision of the construction. About 788.5 km of road sections (most of which will be 2-lane) in Kyzylorda oblast will be rehabilitated or upgraded with modern structural design to lower the life-cycle cost of the road asset, including road safety features and road services. Land acquisition and road design costs are financed by the Borrower.
- Component 2: Upgrade and reconstruction of road sections within South Kazakhstan oblast from the Kyzylorda oblast border to Shymkent, including the bypasses to Kyzylorda and Shymkent, at an estimated cost of US\$879.1 million equivalent, excluding physical and price contingencies, and the costs of consulting services for construction supervision. About 273.4 km of road sections, all of which will be dual carriageways with 4 lanes, will be reconstructed or upgraded to include road safety features and road services. Land acquisition and road design costs are also financed by the Borrower.
- Component 3: Project Management Consultants (PMC) estimated at US\$6.5 million equivalent. The consultant services are designed to assist the Committee for Roads with the management of all activities associated with the projects financed by international financial institutions (IFIs), including the supervision of all safeguard and fiduciary aspects, as part of a joint effort by all IFIs and the Government to ensure efficient and transparent implementation of the WE-WC Corridor program. Additional financing towards the full PMC costs will be made by the other participating IFIs, estimated at another US\$6 million. The main beneficiaries will be the Committee for Roads and the MoTC from improved efficiency in Project implementation and management of the road network.
- Component 4: Institutional development and preparation of action plans to improve road safety and road services estimated at US\$3.5 million equivalent. The component comprises consulting services for: (i) a study to review options for strengthening the Committee for Roads and improving the overall condition of the road network; (ii) a training program to enhance capacity of Committee staff in project management, with particular emphasis on fiduciary and safeguards aspects; (iii) development and implementation of a road management system comprising a computerized database system for planning and scheduling road interventions; (iv) preparation of plans for improving road services along the

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³ Other sections of the WE-WC Transit Corridor are financed by the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Islamic Development Bank.

- Project road; (v) improvement in the oversight of environmental protection; and (vi) improvement in road safety through preparation of a road safety design manual, road safety audit, identification of accident black spots, strengthening of road accident research and estimation of the social cost of road accidents. Related civil works along the Corridor, such as improvements of links to local roads, construction of bus terminals, road/rail terminals, etc., will be financed through Components 1 and 2.
- *Component 5*: This will finance consulting services for supervision of civil works under Components 1 and 2, estimated at US\$55.0 million. This also includes review of detailed engineering designs and supervision of the implementation of Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) prepared for each road section.
- 13. During Project preparation, the Bank discussed and agreed with the Government and with the other IFIs on the use of the PMC to assist the Committee for Roads with the management and implementation of the WE-WC Corridor development program. The PMC is funded by the participating IFIs through the corresponding project loans. The specific role of the PMC is to undertake quality control in the management of all contracts, monitor safeguards implementation and oversee the work of supervising engineers employed under separate consulting services contracts. The PMC is responsible for preparing bidding documents, bid evaluation reports, quality control reports, and other progress reports for the entire WE-WC Corridor. In addition to the transfer of skills through training and day-to-day operations, the PMC interaction with the Committee of Roads is expected to lead to better control of the implementation schedule and will provide quality assurance for the executed works. This is designed to ensure strict adherence to all contract specifications, including full compliance with environmental and social safeguards requirements.
- 14. During the initial stages of preparation, the Project was designed to be financed as separate phases of an Adaptable Programmatic Loan (APL), but this was later changed to a Specific Investment Loan (SIL), with implications for safeguards procedures. Phase 1 of the APL would have comprised road sections placed in environmental screening Category B, for which the Environmental Assessment Review Framework (EARF) and Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) had been prepared and disclosed. It was anticipated that a subsequent Phase 2 would be a Category A operation involving involuntary resettlement. However, during the appraisal mission, the Government requested that the entire Loan be committed upfront, as was done for the road sections financed by other IFIs. Consequently, the proposed financing instrument was changed from an APL to a SIL as this was the only Bank instrument that would fulfill the request by the Government. With the change of the lending instrument from an APL to a SIL at appraisal, the entire Project was reclassified as environmental Category A, involving involuntary resettlement. The implication of this re-classification was that the EARF was no longer sufficient for the requirements under OP 4.01, which specify that a detailed Environmental Assessment (EA) report covering all road sections under the Project, incorporating site-specific EMPs, should be completed, disclosed and consulted upon, prior to appraisal. With regard to OP 4.12, compliance requires completion and disclosure of a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) prior to appraisal if all

affected persons and the land to be acquired can be identified at that time – otherwise an RPF can be an appropriate form of resettlement instrument.

- 15. As a consequence of the change of lending instrument from an APL to a SIL at appraisal, a request was made to senior Bank management for a waiver to be sought from the Board of Executive Directors to exempt the Project from the requirement for the EA report and the RAPs to be completed and disclosed prior to appraisal. The request to senior Bank management dated October 6, 2008, was made on the understanding that the EA report and the RAPs would be completed to the satisfaction of the Bank prior to presentation of the Project to the Board of Executive Directors. The EARF and RPF were subsequently withdrawn from the InfoShop because their disclosure had been superseded by the waiver request. It was agreed that an EA and RPF would be completed prior to Board presentation, while preparation of the site-specific EMPs and RAPs would be carried out during the Project implementation phase.
- 16. **As of August 2011, Project implementation is progressing mostly as planned.** A total of 21 civil works contracts have been issued for the 1,065 km of roads financed under this Project (with the exception of the bypass to Temirlanovka settlement). Project supervision has been regularly carried out by a high level interdisciplinary team of Bank staff (including two staff based in Kazakhstan). The Bank has allocated significantly higher supervision budgets to this Project from the outset approximately 2.5 times the average for supervision of projects in Central Asia.

IV. SPECIAL ISSUES

- 17. This is the second Request for Inspection of this Project. The First Request related to a different section of the WE-WC road corridor, focused on the proposed improvements at Birlik settlement along the existing bypass to Turkestan city. Management was satisfied that the revised designs for the road segment at Birlik settlement were amended and other additional measures were taken by the Borrower to address issues raised by local residents. The Inspection Panel, in light of the satisfactory resolution of key matters of concern to the requesters and the positive response to the requesters concerns documented in the management response, did not recommend an investigation.
- 18. Management believes that the Requesters' claims reflect issues typically encountered in a project of this scope and complexity. Resolving such issues can take considerable time and, indeed, efforts are already underway to resolve all of the complaints raised. The Project record indicates that the Committee for Roads has consistently taken steps to resolve issues that arise in a manner consistent with domestic law and practice and with Bank policies. It should be noted that in Kazakhstan at the present time, resolution of issues such as compensation for land expropriation is

⁴ The initial request to seek a waiver was approved by senior Bank management on October 6, 2008. This was subsequently amended on March 30, 2009. The waiver was approved by the Board concurrently with the approval of the Project on April 30, 2009.

undertaken in a careful and methodical manner, in part due to concerns that the Financial Police⁵ will investigate and possibly find fault with authorities' decisions or with the use of public funds. As a result it is common practice for parties to refer grievances to courts for judgment, and the legal process (including appeals) can take several months or years to be completed.

- 19. While the Project grievance process is not raised in the Request, Management notes that the Project has a two-channel grievance redress mechanism. One channel, as is traditionally the case in Kazakhstan, involves Project Affected Persons lodging complaints or concerns with local government officials (the *akimat*), who are generally the local officials designated to deal with ownership, property valuation and compensation issues. This is supplemented by a second channel provided for under the Project comprising grievance coordination functions undertaken by designated staff employed by supervision consultants for each road section financed through the Project. The role of the grievance coordinators is to deal with complaints or concerns relating to contractor performance and to any damages that might be caused as a result of the civil works in remote locations.
- 20. Each channel is intended to record systematically complaints and concerns, as well as the steps taken to address them. The Committee for Roads through the PMC is required to maintain an overall grievance database and to report on results. The Project has made significant efforts to inform local residents about grievance redress opportunities. Brochures describing procedures and providing contact information have been disseminated, and were available to the public in the offices of *akimats* visited by the Bank in April 2011. As part of its effort to enhance the operation of the grievance redress mechanism, the PMC has provided standardized reporting formats to the *akimats* and has committed to undertake regular visits with the *akimats* and the supervision consultants in order to achieve more effective reporting on complaints received and actions taken as a result.
- 21. Many complaints have been addressed in a satisfactory manner, and additional measures are being introduced to improve the systematic recording of grievances and reporting on actions taken. Regarding the *akimat* channel, the Bank has interviewed *akimat* officials, who indicate that local concerns generally continue to be addressed in an ad-hoc manner. Concerns beyond the purview of the *akimat* typically are referred to the Committee for Roads at the oblast level for consideration, or are referred to the courts for legal review. Officials and complainants appear to have little interest in formal registration of complaints, which runs counter to usual domestic practice. Because of the structure of the Project grievance mechanism, which relies on grievance coordinators appointed by the supervision consultants, it is taking time for the second channel to become fully operational. With regard to the Requesters' claims, Management notes that these have all been previously raised through the *akimat* channel and/or directly to the PMC.

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⁵ Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Fighting Economic and Corruption Crimes (Financial Police).

- 22. The Bank has also promoted two other grievance mechanisms to bolster Project responsiveness to concerns and complaints. A "Tripartite Committee" was established in 2009, in which the Lead Requester as an NGO representative, the Committee for Roads and the PMC would meet to discuss identified concerns. After a brief period of initial success, the NGO representative indicated that he did not wish to continue as he felt that it was not sufficiently responsive to his views. During the Bank's field missions in April and in August 2011, the NGO representative agreed to participate in an attempt to revitalize that process. The Bank subsequently initiated a process to establish a Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) to coordinate activities between the MoTC, NGOs and the IFIs to facilitate NGO engagement in monitoring all aspects of the implementation of the WE-WC transport corridor. A Memorandum of Understanding among the Committee for Roads, the PMC and the NGOs is currently being negotiated.
- 23. As was the case in the First Request, Management is committed to examine diligently all complaints brought forward. Recognizing that it will take time to integrate existing national grievance resolution channels with those established by the Project, the Bank has sought to facilitate grievance resolution as described above. Regional management, including the ECAVP, the Country Director and the Sector Manager have on various occasions visited the Project sites and stressed to senior Government officials the importance of providing an effective and responsive grievance redress mechanism, as well as ensuring strict compliance with all relevant safeguard policies of the Bank.
- 24. Management is concerned that the multiple roles of the Lead Requester in relation to this Project contribute to premature claims and reflect a potential conflict of interest on his part. The Lead Requester has taken the initiative, on an ongoing basis throughout the implementation of the Project, of actively collecting individual concerns and communicating such issues to the Project's grievance redress mechanism and directly to the Bank. Management notes the role that the Lead Requester has performed in bringing potential issues to the attention of the Bank and to the Committee for Roads, though in most cases those issues were already known and in the process of being resolved. However, Management has increasing concern about the role of the Lead Requester in two areas: firstly, that actions of the Lead Requester have the effect of escalating these issues under the assumption of a harmful outcome before the ongoing efforts to resolve them have been exhausted; secondly, that the Lead Requester's other activities in connection with the Project may lead to confusion or even a conflict of interest on his part. Management notes that the Lead Requester was involved as a consultant to the road designers hired by the Committee for Roads, and was responsible for organizing public consultations on the EIA for the Temirlanovka Bypass, obtaining clearances for the document from relevant authorities, and performing other administrative duties on behalf of the road designers.

V. MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSE

- 25. In Management's view the Request for Inspection is based on assumed outcomes and a misplaced assumption that no actions are being taken to address the issues raised by the Requesters. All issues referred to in the Request are in the process of being resolved through the appropriate channels, such as the Project's grievance redress mechanism, local courts, the akimats, the Committee for Roads, and the Bank, as relevant. In Management's view these issues are frequently encountered in a project of this scope and complexity, and it is part of the role of the Project to identify and address such issues as they arise throughout implementation. Some of the issues are also similar to Project issues that have been satisfactorily addressed and resolved, such as in the First Request for Inspection of this Project. Hence, Management believes that the issues raised are already being adequately dealt with by the Bank and/or the Committee for Roads.
- 26. Management observes that the Project involves road improvements across a 1,065-km alignment, requiring implementation in multiple jurisdictions. As is commonly the case in projects of such technical and administrative complexity, planning and implementation issues can arise at any point in time, reflecting unanticipated situations relating to particular cases or locations, as is the case with this Request. Management acknowledges that adverse impacts could occur if the Requesters' issues were not addressed. In the context of the Project, however, the issues raised by the Requesters have been acknowledged by the Bank and by the Committee for Roads and are being addressed by the appropriate channels. In fact, some of the issues raised by the Requesters relate to redesign processes that are ongoing. For example, the Temirlanovka Bypass and the Yntymak section, redesigns are being undertaken directly in response to earlier concerns expressed by local residents.
- Management recognizes that the Committee for Roads, acting on behalf of 27. the Borrower, has actively engaged with the Requesters in response to issues raised. To date, the Committee's record is strong in resolving complaints, as evidenced by several measures to redesign particular road segments in response to consultations with local communities. Management recognizes the importance of supporting and further strengthening the capacity of the Committee for Roads to manage projects in a manner consistent with Bank policies and procedures. As a way of providing such support, the Bank has closely followed up and intensively supervised Project implementation and performance (see Annex 2 for site visit and supervision missions). Efforts to strengthen the formal recording and reporting aspects of the Project grievance redress mechanism are ongoing. Specifically, the PMC has developed and is circulating formats to standardize recording and reporting. The formats are to be used both by grievance coordinators and by akimats. To date, recourse to akimats remains a more familiar and accessible process for local residents. Management believes that the Bank and the Committee for Roads have shown consistent and appropriate efforts to identify and address planning and implementation issues, including being accessible to Project Affected Persons and other stakeholders, and have demonstrated continued commitment to meeting all Bank policy and procedure requirements.

28. Regarding road design issues, Management confirms that in line with Bank policies road designs will not be approved, and works will not start, until plans and designs are finalized based on full and due consideration of the issues involved, including meaningful consultations with local communities and other stakeholders, and all required documents have been approved by the Bank. Management remains committed to ensuring that the Committee for Roads meets its Project obligations to avoid harm, or to mitigate harm that occurs, or may have occurred during implementation of the Project.

29. Management's response is focused on the four issues raised by the Requesters:

- A. A claim by an individual in Turkestan Rayon that Bank omissions may result in failure to compensate adequately for assets and investments due to land acquisition.
- B. A claim that the roadway design through a densely populated area of the Yntymak neighborhood would generate environmental harm, such as noise and safety concerns.
- C. A claim that their comments on the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Temirlanovka Bypass section of the Project have not been taken into account and that the current draft EIA does not adequately assess the environmental impact of the proposed bypass.
- D. A claim that a contractor operating in Sairam Rayon initiated works on lands for which compensation to owners or leaseholders had not yet been finalized.

A. THE CLAIM BY AN AFFECTED PERSON IN TURKESTAN RAYON

- 30. This complaint relates to a parcel of land on which the Requester has constructed a commercial building, and which may be subject to land acquisition. The Requester is seeking compensation for anticipated profits from commercial operations and the cost for constructing a car park. There are ongoing disputes regarding the amount of land that he owns and whether or not he was prevented by the local authorities from commencing commercial operations. These disputes so far have led to three court cases with a fourth case pending.
- 31. Management notes that a RAP is in place that specifically identifies the Requester as a potentially Project Affected Person and provides for his compensation, which will be based on both the final determination regarding his property and land requirements of the Project. At present the Requester's rightful ownership of the plot, including the question of the actual size of this plot, is being clarified by a civil court case in Kazakhstan. Court proceedings rendered judgments in October 2010, February 2011, and April 2011, with appeals still ongoing. The Requester will be eligible for compensation or assistance under the RAP in line with Bank policy. The actual amount will depend on the outcome of the court case and the final design. The Bank has made clear its position to the Turkestan Rayon *akimat* and to the Committee for Roads that works that would affect this property cannot begin until the issue is resolved.

32. The Committee for Roads in South Kazakhstan Oblast is considering whether minor road redesign may reduce the impact on the Requester's property. Based on site visits in August 2011 and interviews with the Requester, the Bank is of the view that even with the proposed redesign the road works would still result in some impacts that would require compensation. The Committee for Roads has been engaged in seeking resolution to the issue, with the direct involvement of high-ranking Project officials in discussions with the Requester and the rayon *akimat*. The Bank has also informed the Committee for Roads that the compensation that would be due to the Requester will need reassessment, based on the actual impacts that eventually may occur, and taking into account inflation that may have occurred since the initial assessment (as is consistent with domestic practice).

B. ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH YNTYMAK ROADWAY REDESIGN

- 33. The Requesters' claim states that the planned upgrading of a 5-km stretch of road in a densely populated peri-urban area from two lanes to four lanes will cause noise and safety problems for residents. The Requesters propose specific remedies, including construction of a noise control barrier and decorative plant barriers throughout the affected Yntymak neighborhood.
- 34. Management notes that a redesign process is being undertaken, in response to earlier concerns expressed by the local community to the Committee for Roads. The initial design was motivated, in part, by an intention to minimize land acquisition and population displacement in a densely populated area. The Bank and the Committee for Roads have remained actively engaged in responding to community issues. In a recent (August 2011) site visit, the Bank found that prospects for effective redesign satisfying city road design standards and local residents are limited by the spatial constraints of this narrow area in which the alignment must be situated. The Bank has made suggestions regarding possible means to reduce or mitigate environmental risks, but at present it is not possible for the Bank to state whether an appropriate design can be achieved without recourse to further land acquisition and population displacement.
- 35. Based on interviews with residents and the Lead Requester, the Bank believes that a significant part of continuing community concern relates to progress with the proposed redesign. Management notes that the first consultations on the preliminary designs for this road section were held in July 2009, and did not identify concerns with the design. However, subsequent consultations with the local population on the detailed designs carried out by the road designer in March 2011, in the presence of the Lead Requester and senior officials from the Committee for Roads, identified community concerns with the detailed designs. Following this, a review by the PMC of the original design was carried out in June 2011. The PMC recommended changes to the design utilizing a narrower road cross section. The PMC also recommended carrying out an analysis of the impacts of this changed design. The Committee for Roads agreed with the PMC recommendations and instructed the designers to prepare a new design based on these recommendations. The Bank will ensure that consultations take place as soon as a draft of the revised design is available.

36. The Bank has reminded the Committee for Roads that an updated site-specific EMP together with an updated site-specific RAP (if additional land acquisition is found to be necessary), will need to be prepared, based on the final design. The Bank will not issue its No Objection for the commencement of road works until all required documents have been reviewed and approved by the Bank.

C. ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH TEMIRLANOVKA BYPASS EIA

- 37. The Requesters state that Project agencies have failed to follow appropriate procedures relating to public consultation regarding the proposed Temirlanovka Bypass, and that the EIA does not adequately assess the environmental impacts of the proposed bypass. The Requesters state that the process to date violates provisions regarding consultation on environmental matters under the Bank's OP 4.01, domestic regulations and the Aarhus Convention. The Requesters claim that there has been a failure to comply with national law and specifically a failure to register and analyze public comments on the EIA and to report on this analysis. With respect to OP 4.01, the Requesters cite the requirements for the Borrower to consult project affected groups and NGOs during the EA process and to take their views into account.
- 38. Management notes that the proposed bypass around Temirlanovka was the result of consultations held in January 2009 with local communities on the original design for a proposed 2.3 km elevated highway through the middle of the settlement. Local residents rejected plans for the elevated roadway and the road bypass was accepted as the alternative after further public consultations. The Committee for Roads awarded a contract to a design consultant in 2010 to prepare a design for the bypass. Consequently, this required the preparation of an EIA and a RAP for the bypass.
- 39. The Requesters state that the EIA document lacks specific reference to a range of environmental issues that may be relevant in constructing a road bypass in the proposed location. The Bank concurs and has provided extensive comments on two successive versions of the preliminary draft EIA to this effect. Specifically, the Bank has noted that the current draft EIA is largely generic and is lacking in information and analysis regarding site-specific conditions and issues.
- 40. Management agrees that effective and timely public consultation is essential. However, in order to have meaningful consultations the document needs to be of sufficient quality. The existing EIA document has not been approved by the Bank and, in the Bank's view, does not meet the required standard for consultation and disclosure. The Bank formally communicated in April 2011 to the Borrower that the draft EIA was not acceptable in its current form and content and made it clear that completion of a satisfactory EIA and an EMP with meaningful consultation as required in OP 4.01 as well as by national law and the Aarhus Convention (and completion of a site-specific RAP) for the new road bypass remains necessary before designs are finalized and works may commence. Once the EIA has been revised and improved to a state acceptable to the Bank, it will be duly shared with the public and consultations organized. The Bank will continue to support the Committee for Roads in its efforts to prepare an EIA that will be acceptable.

41. Management further notes that OP 4.04 was not triggered at the time of appraisal of the Project because the EIA indicated that no significant impacts on any natural habitats were anticipated. Management wishes to point out that the Temirlanovka Bypass was not included in the Project design at that time, as it was introduced as a redesign solution in response to concerns expressed by local residents about the original design for an overpass. OP 4.04 would now be triggered only if the EIA for the Temirlanovka Bypass (when completed) indicates that this redesign involves potential impacts on natural habitats. However, preliminary assessments by the Bank based on site visits by staff in August 2011 indicate that the proposed area for the bypass construction is in close proximity to a rayon center, and both the river and adjacent land areas are already significantly degraded as a result of heavy human use. Therefore, the affected area is unlikely to qualify as a natural habitat and OP 4.04 is unlikely to apply. This will be confirmed through the EIA process currently being carried out.

D. ALLEGATIONS REGARDING PREMATURE START OF WORKS IN SAIRAM RAYON

- 42. The Requesters claim that a contractor initiated works in Spring 2011 in two locations that were still subject to agreement on, and payment of, compensation due to land acquisition by the Project. The Requesters claim that such actions were in violation of OP 4.12, Involuntary Resettlement.
- 43. In response to information provided to the Bank, a field visit was conducted by Bank staff in August 2011 to clarify the situation. During the visit, the Bank was informed that a contractor had moved equipment onto private property and initiated works on lands for which compensation arrangements were still subject to dispute, and for which compensation had not been paid at the time. The Bank was advised by the Committee for Roads that the contractor had mistakenly been informed that works could begin on the land parcels involved. Following receipt of complaints from property leaseholders, the contractor stopped work in the area. The Bank was advised that the incursion lasted about one day and the extent of works undertaken involved some initial scraping and removal of topsoil.
- 44. Management notes that the Committee for Roads has been working with the affected households to reach agreement on compensation. The Committee for Roads has informed the Bank that as of August 31, 2011, seven of the eight affected households had reached agreement on compensation, and one case remains pending.
- 45. The Bank has made its position clear to the Committee for Roads that resolution of remaining issues is necessary before works can proceed on the one land parcel for which compensation is still in dispute. The field visit by the Bank in August 2011 confirmed that no works have been in progress since then involving this land plot for which compensation issues remain outstanding.
- 46. Management further observes that the Requesters do not claim that any material harm resulted from the incursion, and do not propose any specific remedial measures. The Bank continues to seek information relating to any appreciable harm that may be associated with these events. In the absence of specific claims, and in the absence of

information indicating that appreciable harm has occurred, Management believes that no further action is required in relation to this incursion.

VI. CONCLUSION

47. The Requesters' claims, accompanied by Management's detailed responses, are provided in Annex 1. In Management's view, the Bank has been fully responsive to the issues raised, and has made every reasonable effort to apply its policies and procedures in the context of the Project. As a result, Management is of the view that the Requesters' rights or interests have not been, nor will be, adversely affected by a failure of the Bank to implement its policies and procedures. Management will continue to monitor all aspects of implementation, including the issues raised by the Requesters, to ensure full compliance with Bank policies.

ANNEX 1 CLAIMS AND RESPONSES

No	Claim	Response
1.	We may incur damage as a result of deficiencies or omissions by the World Bank during implementation of the project "South-West Roads Development: Western Europe-Western China International Transit Corridor (CAREC 1B & 6B)," (IBRD Loan No. 7681-KZ) (Corridor Project), which is under way in the Republic of Kazakhstan The project design calls for a section of the planned road through the city of Turkestan to run along an existing bypass. At the intersection of M. Shokai and Zh. Karmenov streets along the planned route there is a parcel of land that is privately owned by a citizen [the Requester].	In Turkestan, there is a registered complaint in the Grievance Redress Database from a Requester who has stated that he obtained commercial use rights for a piece of land in 2008, and built business facilities there. He has not yet received any compensation because the legality of his claim to ownership has been contested by the rayon <i>akimat</i> . The Requester has referred the matter to the courts. According to the latest information available to the Bank, the court proceedings have not yet resolved issues regarding the Requester.
	A commercial facility, selling construction material, has been built on this land. To construct this building, the owner invested his entire family capital, as well as loans from close acquaintances, business colleagues, and from a bank in the amount of US\$45.000 with an interest rate of US\$3.000 a year. [the Requester] received a notification on the start of the Western Europe—Western China highway rehabilitation project precisely at the time when he finished constructions, but he was unable to start its operation and obtain the anticipated income. As a result, he became insolvent; his arrears on all the loans he received are growing every month. Therefore, it is necessary on the basis of available financial documents to calculate the amount of forgone gain from the aforementioned business facility. In addition, a parking lot has been built on public land for the facility's customers. These costs must also be compensated. Based on an appeal filed by [the Requester] at the cassation level, the South Kazakhstan Oblast Court ruled in favor of legalizing the facility. However, the Turkestan City Administration refused to issue [the Requester] documents allowing him to operate the store. Furthermore, representatives of the local government authority did not formalize their refusal in writing, and thereby deprived [the Requester] of an opportunity to file a claim with the court against the their actions. At the same time, abusing their official powers, they have repeatedly attempted to raze the parking lot in front of the store with the help of the building contractor DENA RAHSAZ CONSTRUCTION Co., with which the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan has entered into a contract on lot km 2057-km 2111 of the road between the Russian Federation border (toward Samara) and Shymkent.	Given the uncertainty surrounding his situation, the Requester states that he has been unable to launch his business, leaving his facilities unutilized in the interim. Though court proceedings are continuing, it appears that the Requester has been informed that his claim would be compensable under the laws of Kazakhstan if he were to obtain akimat documentation confirming his use rights. Under Bank policy terms, the Requester is potentially a Project-Affected Person, and RAP data tables indicate he is to be compensated. The Bank was informed that the Committee for Roads would prepare and review redesign options. Based on a site visit and interview with the Requester in August 2011, however, the Bank observed that redesign within the existing alignment would likely cause safety, parking and access issues that would require careful consideration. In any event, compensation would remain necessary for loss of assets and land that would still fall within the alignment. The Bank recommended that the Committee for Roads intervene directly to ensure that the final design provides adequate safety and access measures and that the Requester is fully compensated for land and assets that would be acquired. During the August 2011 site visit, the Bank also met representatives of the contractor and the supervision team. There was no evidence that any works had started on the Requester's property. The contractor's representatives and the supervision teams confirmed that they will not move forward with civil works that affect the property until further notice.

No Claim Response 2. Another problem concerns the project "Reconstruction of Management notes that a redesign process is being the road from the Russian Federation border (toward undertaken, in response to earlier concerns Samara) to Shymkent, km 2231-km 2260." On July 30, expressed by the local community in the Yntymak 2009, at a meeting on implementation of the "Western residential neighborhood to the Committee for Europe-Western China" project through South Kazakhstan Roads. The original design was motivated, in part, by an intention to minimize land acquisition and Oblast with the participation of representatives from the World Bank, the Oblast Akimat, the Committee for Roads population displacement in a densely populated of the Republic of Kazakhstan Ministry of Transport and area. Communication, the Oblast Committee for Roads, Management is aware of the spatial constraints and interested members of the public and design, landrelated technical difficulties associated with the management and other stakeholders, the following design of the portion of the road running through question, among others, was raised: Yntymak, which is a peri-urban neighborhood of Shymkent. Legitimate concerns have been raised by The project engineer asserts that calculations done in residents about the construction of a four lane road the locations of the construction, taking into account based on the current design. Management notes that the presence of 2-3 meters high .walls, acting as this road section is being redesigned, following protective barriers, show that the concentration of toxic meetings between the Committee for Roads, the substances in emitted gases (carbon oxides, designer, the Project Management Consultants hydrocarbons, carbon black, and lead compounds in (PMC) whose responsibility was to review the the air) is within the permissible standards at a design, and consultations with the local residents. distance of 35-40 meters from the nearest traffic lane Field visits by Bank staff confirmed that the original and will not have a negative impact on the environment. In reality, in the Yntymak residential design would have caused significant negative neighborhood, located 5 km along the road, the impacts on local residents' lives and businesses, in distance between the residences' construction lines varying degrees on some properties along the 5 kilometer section of road through Yntymak. opposite each other in the widest part of the road is 54.7 meters. Given a projected roadway width of 15 Management would like to point out that the meters, what is left for each side of the road up to the concerns of the residents have been recognized both construction line is a maximum of 20 meters, rather by the Bank and the government, and the Committee than the 35-40 that the project engineer contends. for Roads is now considering alternative designs to the Yntymak section. The current strategy of the The project designer's assertion that the distance from Committee for Roads is to redesign the 4 lane road the projected road to the community of Yntymak is 40 with narrower lanes, thus allowing more space meters does not reflect reality, it is 15-20 meters. between abutters and the roadway. The project engineer says that noise will not have a The Bank visited the road section and discussed the negative impact on living conditions of the population in new design during the field trip in August 2011, and the settlement of Yntymak provided that fences are requested the Committee for Roads to meet with installed at a distance of 10 meters from the road. local residents again to discuss and adjust the new Therefore, the fences must be installed at a distance of design prior to finalization. In the site inspection, the 5 meters from the construction lines of the residences. Bank found that prospects for effective redesign – According to the project engineer, the existing forest satisfying city road design standards and local areas along the road being reconstructed are located residents - are limited by the spatial constraints of 30-40 meters from the center line of the roadway, this narrow area in which the alignment must be whereas the required width of the right-of-way for situated. The Bank has made suggestions regarding reconstruction of a road is 16 to 28 meters from the possible means to reduce or mitigate environmental center of the roadway. Hence, when the road is risks, but at present it is not possible for the Bank to reconstructed, existing forest areas do not have to be state whether an appropriate design can be achieved cut down. In reality, however, there are the trees that without recourse to further land acquisition and are planned alongside of existing roads in Yntymak will population displacement. be felled during the implementation of the project. It should be noted that the section through Yntymak We raised a general question: to what extent does this is not on a critical time path for construction and meet the standards of environmental safety? therefore there is still time to adjust the new design

No	Claim	Response	
	In his response, N.B. UMIRBAYEV, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Roads, said that interested members of the public can make their criticisms after contracts are entered into with building contractors. The Technical Specifications of the contracts will take account of and incorporate the instructions to the contractors if they are justified. N. B. UMIRBAYEV said that measures may be recommended in regard to environmental requirements for the Yntymak residential neighborhood. We raised this problem with the Shu-Talas Committee for the Environment of the Republic of Kazakhstan Ministry of Environmental Protection in September 2009. In early June 2011, we received the Technical Specifications for this lot from the office of the Project Management Consultant (PMC) and from the Committee for Roads. Upon studying the document, we discovered that the project engineer's recommendations in the EIA report for construction of a noise-control barrier and planting decorative plants with a full technical description were not taken into account. Based on the foregoing, we insist that revisions be made to the Technical Specifications of the contract of Kukdong Engineering & Construction Co. Ltd to fulfill the World Bank's environmental safety requirements and standards and the environmental laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan, specifically: 1) to build a noise-control barrier at km 2255 to km 2258 of the projected road on both sides of the street in the Yntymak residential neighborhood; 2) to plant decorative plants at km 2255-2260 of the projected road. This is a clear violation of the World Bank's Operational Policy OP4.01 "Environmental Assessment."	following consultations with local residents to ensure that the design is optimized to answer both the demand of road users (better traffic flow, better road safety, etc.) and the demand of local residents for sufficient mitigation of anticipated negative impacts. The Bank requested the Committee for Roads to develop a catalogue of design solutions for noise protection, parking / business access and greening, and present this to the public in the context of a continuing dialogue between local residents and designers. The Bank will ensure that consultations take place as soon as a draft of the revised design is available. The Bank notes that regardless of the technical solution that will be adopted, the traffic on this section of the road will significantly decrease once construction of the north-eastern bypass of Shymkent (also financed under the Project) is completed and the bypass is opened to traffic (in about 24 months). The road will become safer because transit/through traffic will be diverted to the bypass, and the road through Yntymak will be used primarily by local traffic (which tends to be slower, comprising on average lighter vehicles).	
3.	On the third issue, pursuant to the terms of the Loan Agreement signed between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development on June 13, 2009, and ratified by Republic of Kazakhstan Law No. 172-4 of July 10, 2009, the Borrower shall implement the Corridor Project in South Kazakhstan Oblast through the Republic of Kazakhstan Ministry of Transport and Communications with the assistance of the Project Management Consultant of the Canadian company SNC Lavalin. In October 2010, the EIA report for the "Temirlanovka Bypass", by the "GradStroyEkoProyekt" Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) (hereinafter, the Environmentalist); was sent to the South Kazakhstan Oblast Office of Natural Resources and Resource Management (hereinafter, the Expert) of the Shu-Talas Committee for Environmental	Management notes that the proposed bypass around Temirlanovka was the result of consultations held in January 2009 with local communities on the original design for a proposed 2.3 km elevated highway through the middle of the settlement. Local residents rejected plans for the elevated roadway and the road bypass was accepted as the alternative after further public consultations. The Committee for Roads awarded a contract to a design consultant in 2010 to prepare a design for the bypass. Consequently, this required the preparation of an EIA and a site-specific RAP. The current version of the draft EIA was reviewed by the Bank in April 2011 and was deemed not acceptable to the Bank. The Borrower subsequently asked the consultant to revise the document and this	

No Claim Response Protection (EP) of the Republic of Kazakhstan Ministry of was re-submitted to the Bank in July 2011. During EP for the state environmental experts' conclusions. the mission in August 2011, the Bank reviewed the revised version of the EIA, and found that it was still This report does not comply with the Instructions on unacceptable. The mission included a field visit to Conducting Environmental Impact Assessment of Planned the bypass alignment by the Environmental Commercial or Other Activities when Pre-planning, Specialist on August 17, 2011. Further Bank Planning, Pre-design and Design Documents, which was comments on the revised EIA were submitted to the approved by Order No. 204-p of the Republic of Borrower on August 18, 2011. Kazakhstan Ministry of EP of June 28, 2007, and the standards of the World Bank Operational Policies OP 4.01, Management notes that the EIA in its current state is Operational Policy "Environmental Assessment," of not ready for disclosure. The draft EIA still does not January 1999. comply with the standards required by the Bank and is thus a work in progress. The criticism brought forth As a result, in October 2010, [two of the Requesters], by the Requesters of the poor quality of the EIA is representatives of "NAIR", sent the Expert their Comments shared by the Bank and this has been clearly and on the EIA report suggesting to return the report to the unambiguously communicated to the Borrower. Environmentalist for further study and impact assessment During the August 2011 mission, the Bank issued of the "The Temirlanovka Bypass" project to comply with all clear recommendations and guidance to the the requirements and standards of the World Bank and the Committee for Roads on how the EIA could be laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan. improved. Once the EIA has been revised and improved to a state acceptable to the Bank, it will be Subsequently, the authorized body, the Oblast's Committee for the Committee for Roads of the Republic of Kazakhstan duly shared with the public and consultations organized in compliance with OP 4.01, national laws Ministry of Transport and Communications, failed to meet and the Aarhus Convention. the requirements of the Instructions for Incorporating Public Opinion on the EIA project, specifically: During the site visit, the Bank observed that the failed to confirm the registration of the letters with majority of the bypass alignment will run through agricultural and range land. The Bank further noted "Comments" from the "NAIR" representatives; that there are two short sections (both about 1 km of failed to analyze comments and suggestions received length) with relatively higher environmental from the public; sensitivity; failed to prepare the relevant report; 1) The settlement along a road heading east from failed to present its comments on the suggestions from Temirlanovka, which would be traversed by the the public. bypass alignment. The Expert, in turn, gave an unsatisfactory response (No. 2) A road section of about 1.5 km length, that 08/4778 of December 7, 2010) to our letter of November traverses the Arys River floodplain and crosses 25, 2010, which was e-mailed to the Expert: the Arys River by means of a four lane bridge of about 350m. "The materials regarding the working design for construction of the section of road 'Temirlanovka Bypass' The preliminary assessments based on the August are under review by the state environmental experts' panel 2011 site visits by the Bank indicate that the and, pursuant to Article 50 of the Republic of Kazakhstan proposed area for the bypass construction is in close Environmental Code, the time frame for the review by the proximity to a rayon center, and both the river and environmental experts' panel should not be 3 months from adjacent land areas are already significantly the time the application is submitted. We also inform you degraded as a result of heavy human use. that, pursuant to Article 53 of the Republic of Kazakhstan's Therefore, the affected area is unlikely to qualify as a Environmental Code, Article 9 of the Republic of natural habitat and OP 4.04 is unlikely to apply. This Kazakhstan's Law "On the Civil Service", and the Decree will be confirmed through the EIA process currently on Civil Service, government employees serving as State being carried out. environmental experts shall ensure the safekeeping of the documentations by preventing the disclosure of information entrusted to them and shall carry out the administration's orders and directives and the decisions and instructions of higher-ranked agencies to the extent of their authority."

No	Claim	Response
	With this statement we conclude that there is a violation of NAIR's right to participate in decision-making processes on matters related to the environmental under the procedure prescribed by the laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Article 14 of the Republic of Kazakhstan Environmental Code of January 9, 2007, No. 212-III ZRK) and a restriction of NAIR's right to express its opinion during the environmental expertise review.	
	Pursuant to Article 6, "Public Participation in Decisions on Specific Activities" of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention):	
	"7. Procedures for public participation shall allow the public to submit, in writing or, as appropriate, at a public hearing or inquiry with the applicant, any comments, information, analysis or opinions that it considers relevant to the proposed activity.	
	"8. Each Party shall ensure that in the decision due account is taken of the outcome of the public participation.	
	"9. Each Party shall ensure that, when the decision has been taken by the public authority, the public is promptly informed of the decision in accordance with the appropriate procedures. Each Party shall make accessible to the public the text of the decision along with the reasons and considerations on which the decision is based."	
	These precise provisions were not complied with by the authorized government bodies.	
	Finally, the following provisions were violated:	
	 clause 15 of the World Bank's Operational Policy "Environmental Assessment": "For all Category A projects during the EA process, the borrower consults project-affected groups and local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) about the project's environmental aspects and takes their views into account"; 	
	 clause 12 of the World Bank's Operational Manual BP 4.01 "For Category A projects this review gives special attention to [] the nature of the consultations with affected groups and local NGOs and the extent to which the views of such groups were considered"; 	
	 clause 2 (h) of Annex B of the World Bank's Operational Policy "Environmental Assessment": "iii) Record of [] consultations with public groups and local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) specifies any means other than consultations [] that were used to obtain the views of affected groups and local NGOs." 	

No	Claim	Response	
4.	Concerning the "Shymkent Bypass" section of the projected road from km 2231 of Route M32 "Russian Federation border via Samara to Shymkent" to km 674 of Route A-2 "Kborgos via Almaty and Shymkent to the Republic of Uzbekistan border", the Project runs through agricultural land belonging to the following [eight] citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan: The content of their grievances is the following:	Enquiries by the Bank during the field visit in Augus 2011 indicated that the Contractor had prematurely entered some private agricultural land for which compensation arrangements were still under disput After initiating some topsoil scraping and removal, the Contractor subsequently stopped the works one he was informed of the situation, and the works have not resumed since.	
	a) in the spring of 2011, the contractor AzerkorpU/Tepe JV began excavation work on the land of [2 of the citizens] before the Agreement on the Amount of Compensation for Losses Resulting from the Expropriation was signed. On April 4, 2011, the South Kazakhstan Oblast Committee for Roads entered into the above Agreement with these individuals, and terminated it by a letter of April 12, 2011. b) in the spring of 2011, the contractor AzerkorpU/Tepe JV began excavation work on the land of [one of the citizens] without formalizing an Agreement on the Amount of Compensation for Losses Resulting from the Expropriation of Land.	To date, according to the Sairam Rayon akimat, seven of the eight land users have reached agreement while one case remains pending. At present, and in accordance with OP 4.12 requirements, construction has been halted and will not proceed on the relevant parcel until the issue has been resolved. In the remaining case, the Committee for Roads has sought court determination as to whether the proposed compensation is excessive. In August 2011, the court ruled that the assessment and proposed compensation is appropriate. The Committee for Roads has not yet decided whether to appeal the court's decision.	
	c) with regard to the land of the other individuals, excavation works have not begun on the lands of other citizens only because of the spontaneous-resistance of these landowners. According to a letter from a specialist in the office of the PMC of SNC Lavalin of June 13, 2011, the following [four] individuals:were paid compensation on May 5, 2011 by the Committee for Roads and their land was confiscated under the Agreement. With regard to the other four land users, the Committee for Roads and the local <i>Akimat</i> are initiating a lawsuit to revise the previous Assessment Report due to an allegedly inflated amount of compensation. This is a. clear violation of the World Bank's Operational Policy OP 4.12 "Involuntary Resettlement," specifically: clause 10. Resettlement measures are linked to the implementation of the investment component of the project so that the confiscation of land or the restriction of access to it is carried out only after implementation of all necessary .measures related to resettlement In particular, land and other property may be confiscated	The Bank has stated to the Committee for Roads and PMC that, if the value of the property were to be reassessed and if the compensation amount were lowered below that provided by the RAP, a detailed review would be required to demonstrate that the revised compensation remains sufficient to obtain a replacement asset of equivalent market value. The Bank has made its position clear to the Committee for Roads that resolution of remaining issues is necessary before works can proceed on the one land parcel for which compensation is still in dispute. The field visit by the Bank in August 2011 confirmed that no works have been in progress since then involving this land plot for which compensation issues remain outstanding. The Bank also requested the Committee for Roads to provide a formal response as to whether the Contractor entered private land before the compensation process was agreed upon, and whether any appreciable property damages occurred as a result. In the absence of specific claims, and in the absence of information indicating that appreciable harm has occurred, Management believes that no further action is required in relation	
5.	only after the appropriate compensation is paid. [One of the Requesters] between 2009 and 2011 has repeatedly sought assistance from the Turkestan City Administration; the Oblast Committee for Roads; and other authorized bodies, as well as the Project's Committee for the World Bank. The Committee for Roads contends that [the Requester] is fully entitled to	In responding to the Requester's concern, the Bank intended to clarify the appropriate channels through which issues such as these can be raised and addressed. As is standard practice, the Bank prefers to allow domestic processes to run their course before the Bank directly intervenes. But in all cases,	

No	Claim	Response
	receive compensation. Representatives of the Project's Committee for the World Bank, in their response of April 13, 2011, stated that they do not intend to solve specific problems of individual land users and land owners, and that it is the prerogative of the Committee for Roads and the Project Management's Consultant, and that the Plan approved by the Bank fully satisfies the representatives of the Project's Department. The Turkestan <i>Akimat</i> denies [the Requester] the right to receive compensation for the direct impact of the project.	outcomes consistent with Bank policy standards are required. In this Project, compensation to individual Project Affected Persons is addressed in the RAP. The Bank will continue close supervision to ensure full implementation of the RAP. This message was also passed to the Lead Requester during a meeting held between the Bank and the Requesters in Shymkent in April 2011. The status of the case related to the Requester's property in Turkestan is described under Item 1.
6.	Attached to this Request are the letters with which we appealed to all the agencies. We believe the Bank has the right to demand that the Client enforce its policy. We appealed to .the Project Leader of the World Bank and to the Astana office of the World Bank in October 2010 by e-mailing a letter with an attachment of Comments by [two of the Requesters] regarding the EIA report by GradStroyEkoProyekt LLP on the "Temirlanovka Bypass" project. We received no response. We appealed to the Project's Committee for the World Bank regarding the violations related to the implementation of the Resettlement Action Plan for South Kazakhstan Oblast, but on April 13, 2011, we received an unequivocal reply that the Bank did not intend to address specific problems of individual land users and owners and that this is the prerogative of the Committee of Roads and the Project Management Consultant and the Plan approved by the Bank fully satisfies the representatives of the Project's Department. We appealed to the Committee for Roads (the letter and reply are attached), and not until June 13, 2011, did we receive a letter from the PMC for South Kazakhstan Oblast in which he informed us that the problem for the 4 land users had been solved, and for the other 4 land users a judicial review would take place	Management notes that the letters referred to in the Request were not provided. Management agrees that the Bank is responsible for ensuring that the Borrower implements the Project in full compliance with Bank policies. The Loan Agreement provides remedies that the Bank can call upon in the event that the Borrower fails to meet its obligations. The Bank has been in contact with the Lead Requester and informed him that the Bank concurred with him regarding the deficiencies in the draft EIA and that the document had not been approved by the Bank. In responding to the Requester's concern, the Bank intended to clarify the appropriate channels through which issues such as these can be raised and addressed. As is standard practice, the Bank prefers to allow domestic processes to run their course before the Bank directly intervenes. But in all cases, outcomes consistent with Bank policy standards are required. In this Project, compensation to individual Project Affected Persons is addressed in the RAP. The Bank will continue close supervision to ensure full implementation of the RAP. The process of resolving land acquisition issues in Sairam is continuing. Since the reported incursion, seven of the eight households involved in the complaint subsequently have reached agreement on compensation.
7.	We ask the Inspection Panel to recommend to the Executive Directors of the World Bank to conduct an investigation into the aforementioned matters in regard to all four situations, and to make revisions to the Corridor Project regarding the area of the Yntymak residential neighborhood in the city of Shymkent.	See Item 2 for the details about the status of the Yntymak residential neighborhood new design.
8.	What may be the environmental and social impact of the construction of the "Western Europe-Western China" Project on the "Bypass in Temirlanovka" section in case the	See Item 3 for details on the Bank's views regarding the quality of the current draft EIA for the Temirlanovka Bypass.

No	Claim	Response
	construction activities are carried' out with this environmental impact assessment prepared by LLC "GradStroyEkoProyekt" (the Environmentalist) for the technical assignment of LLP "Doris"?	
	8a. Regarding the first issue, Clause 4.7, "Impact assessment of the project on the condition of vegetation," in the EIA report by the Ecologist states: "In the area of the construction site, there are no plant species that have been added to the Red Book. The impact of the project on vegetation is determined by the emission of hazardous substances into the atmosphere," while clause 4.8, "Impact assessment of the project on wildlife," states: "There are no animal species that have been added to the Republic of Kazakhstan Red Book in the area affected by construction. No epidemic among animals in the affected zone of the business activity project has been reported. Considering the absence of any significant impact from the project on the condition of fauna, no changes or consequences from these changes in wildlife are expected."	
	This information from the Ecologist suggests that the Ecologist either did not conduct the necessary field research to compile the report or conducted it in a superficial manner. The impression is such that the project route in the above section will run through a desert. In reality everything is precisely opposite.	
	The design for the Bypass of the Village of Temirlanovka calls for the construction of a 350 meters long bridge and a road embankment across the floodplain of the Arys River, which is 1.4 kilometers wide. There is a section of tugai forest in this floodplain where willows and silvery oleaster interwoven with Clematis vine grow; needle grass, tamarisk and chingil grow in the fields. In the spring and fall, there are a great many diverse mushrooms in these forests. Fauna is represented, among others, by ducks, herons, pheasants, feathered predators and jackals; in the river itself are barbs, catfish and small fish. For thousands of residents, situated only 30 km from the middle reaches of the Arys River of the city of Shymkent, its banks have become a place of accessible relaxation and various kinds of recreation. What will happen to this section of tugai forest after the project route is put into service? What is the plan for environmental actions for the aforementioned species of flora and fauna? None of this is in the EIA report by the Environmentalist. Hence, the project will have a direct, irreversible physical impact on the ecosystem of the Arys River over a small section. According to data from scientists at the Industrial Ecology and Biotechnology Research Institute of Mukhtar Auezov South Kazakhstan State University, in terms of chemical characteristics, the Arys River is a highly polluted body of water, and the	
	Arys River is a highly polluted body of water, and the quality of the water falls under Class 3 medium-polluted waters. The algal flora of the river is represented by six	

No	Claim	Response
	species of diatomic algae. The zooplankton in the river is represented by three species of animal flagellates and one species each of amoeba and infusorian. The sources of water pollution are: nitrates, ammonium salts, sulfates, copper, lead, zinc, ions of magnesium, and petroleum products. Concentrations of these pollutants are two to seven times higher than the maximum permissible levels. How is an increase in the pollution of the Arys River to be prevented after the road is put into service? How is the adverse environmental impact of the project to be decreased? What do the specialists and experts propose to address this? Judging by the EIA report, they do not propose anything at all except planting trees along the route near the development zone.	
	8b. The EIA lacks any series of studies on social- issues: medical-biological, demographic, and social-cultural. No description is provided of the residential area through which the bypass around the village of Temirlanovka will run - the settlement of Kazhymukan:	See Item 3 for details of the Bank's views regarding the quality of the current EIA document for Temirlanovka Bypass. These elements have all been brought to the attention of the CR and the firm in charge of finalization of the EIA.
	-the numerical size, gender, and age composition of the population, the labor force, employment level, common types of diseases related to environmental impact, recreation and so forth. What changes will take place in terms of these indicators after the project route is put into service? What is the plan to reduce the adverse impact? The EIA report contains neither analysis nor mitigation plan. Yet South Kazakhstan Oblast leads the republic in the prevalence of anemia among new mothers and in infant mortality up to 1 year of age. The hazardous environmental impact is one of the leading causes of these and other diseases.	
	In addition, as a teacher in the oblast's education system, I would like to point out that instruction in the oblast's schools concerning safe crossing of the roadway is nonsystematic and superficial. This is the first time that a road of the first technical category is being built in the Oblast: high speed, heavy traffic, with its own specific transit characteristics. The EIA should have specified the level, scope, and specific nature of a program to disseminate a minimum of information regarding the road itself and children's safety in the particular conditions of a high-speed highway.	
	8c. The Environmentalist failed to provide an assessment of the flooding of residents' homes in the village of Temirlanovka, as occurred on the night of February 27, 2008, when snowmelt overflowed the Naiman irrigation ditch and burst through it. The stream damaged roads and bridges, a school and a water pipeline, and residents of 30 homes suffered losses.	See Item 3 for details of the Bank's views regarding the quality of the current draft EIA for Temirlanovka Bypass. This element will also be brought to the attention of the Committee for Roads and the firm in charge of finalization of the EIA.

Annex 2
Overview of Supervision Missions and Site Visits (July 2010 to August 2011)

#	Mission Dates	Mission members	Areas Visited	
1	July 29 – August 1, 2010	Task Team LeaderOperations OfficerET Consultant - Engineer	Astana Kyzylorda Oblast	
2	September 27 – October 1, 2010 - Task Team Leader - Senior Environmental Specialist - JPA Engineer - Operations Officer - ET Consultant - Engineer		AstanaKyzylorda Oblast	
3	December 7-14, 2010	Sector ManagerTask Team LeaderOperations Officer	Astana	
4	January 19-23, 2011	Lead Social Development SpecialistOperations Officer	Astana South Kazakhstan Oblast	
5	April 12-17, 2011	 Task Team Leader Senior Environmental Specialist Operations Officer ET Consultant - Engineer 	Astana, South Kazakhstan Oblast	
6	June 2, 2011	Country DirectorCountry ManagerSector ManagerOperations Officer	Astana,South Kazakhstan OblastKyzylorda Oblast	
7	August 8- August 31, 2011	 Task Team Leader Senior Environmental Specialist Lead Social Development Specialist Operations Officer ET Consultant - Engineer 	 Almaty South Kazakhstan Oblast Kyzylorda Oblast Astana	

Note: Excludes missions by the Bank fiduciary team

Annex 3 List of the Bank's Relevant Communications with the Lead Requester (November 2010 – August 2011)

FROM	DATE	то	SUBJECT
Lead Requester	11/25/2010	INT, Task Team Leader	Complaint to the WB
Lead Requester	11/25/2010	Task Team Leader	Environmental Impact on Temirlanovka
Lead Requester	11/25/2010	Sametova, Task	Request to provide the outcomes of the state
		Team Leader	ecological expertise
Task Team Leader	11/25/2010	Lead Requester	Concerns regarding EIA
Lead Requester	12/04/2010	Task Team Leader	Sharing on the successful campaign on ADB monitoring
Lead Requester	12/05/2010	Task Team Leader	Request for the WB policies
Task Team Leader	12/10/2010	Lead Requester	Info on civil works is unavailable
Lead Requester	12/20/2010	Task Team Leader	Resettlement plan
Lead Requester	12/24/2010	Task Team Leader	New version of the monitoring project and update on the NGO activities and request for the new budget allocation of 33000 USD
Lead Requester	02/15/2011	INT, Task Team Leader	Reminder on the status of two complaints
Task Team Leader	02/23/2011	Lead Requester	Circulating draft letter to Project Team and suggest audio conference
Lead Requester	03/03/2011	UNECE, EC, Task Team Leader	Complaint
Lead Requester	03/03/2011	Task Team Leader	Reminder on the violation of the Operational Policy on the Resettlement issues
Lead Requester	03/03/2011	MOTC, Task Team Leader	Notification to the GOR that complaint will be forwarded to the EC
Lead Requester	03/04//2011	Task Team Leader	Additional historical info on Khurlug town
Lead Requester	03/05/2011	UNECE, Task Team Leader	Statement on observing the standards of the Aarhuus Convention
Task Team Leader	03/08/2011	Lead Requester	Your e-mail dd Feb. 15 about SKO RAP
Lead Requester	03/14/2011	Task Team Leader, IP	Claim on damage and meeting the environmental standards of the WB
Task Team Leader	03/15/2011	Lead Requester	Response on the letter fm ShymkentKazdorproekt with claims
Lead Requester	03/16/2011	Task Team Leader	Request for the Inspection
Lead Requester	03/16/2011	Task Team Leader	Requesting assistance to get responses from KZ Road Agencies
Lead Requester	03/16/2011	Task Team Leader	Corrigendum of the attachments
Lead Requester	03/24/2011	Task Team Leader	New complaint fm ShymkentKazdorproekt
Task Team Leader	03/25/2011	Lead Requester	Response on the complaint fm ShymkentKazdorproekt
Lead Requester	03/27/2011	Task Team Leader	Letter response on letter dd. 03/25 – Absence of conflict of interest between Lead Requester and Designer
Lead Requester	03/28/2011	Task Team Leader	Reassurance not to raise any political or social issues around Temirlanovka during the field trip
Task Team Leader	03/28/2011	Lead Requester	Confirmation of the field trip and participation of the Sr. Environment Specialist
Task Team Leader	03/28/2011	Lead Requester	Acknowledge of e-mail and schedule of the trip

FROM	DATE	то	SUBJECT
Lead Requester	04/09/2011	Task Team Leader	Reconfirming the field trip once again
Task Team Leader	04/09/2011	Lead Requester	Reconfirming the field trip once again fm the WB side
Lead Requester	04/19/2011	IP, Task Team Leader	Complaint to IP
Lead Requester	06/02/2011	Task Team Leader	Request for the feedback on the facts stated in the letter fm ShymkentKazdorproekt
Lead Requester	08/25/2011	Task Team Leader	Petrol Station and Inspection Panel
Task Team Leader	08/30/2011	Lead Requester	Petrol Station and Inspection Panel