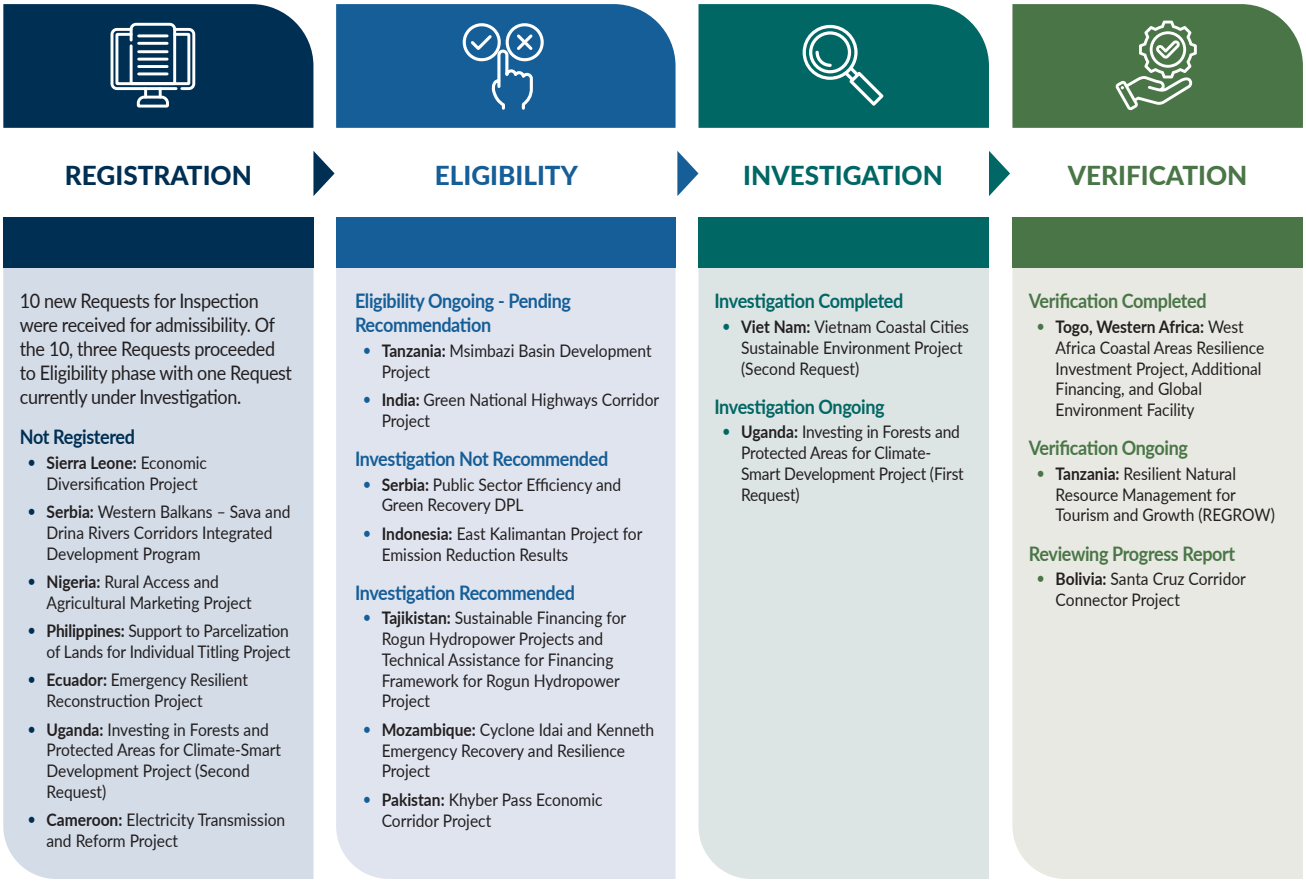
II. CASE OVERVIEW



During FY 2026, the Panel processed a total of eighteen cases across the four main stages of its process—registration, eligibility, investigation, and verification. Of these, ten new cases were received during FY 2026, while the eight cases were carried over from previous fiscal years. Several cases progressed through more than one stage during the year. The status of cases at each stage is summarized below.

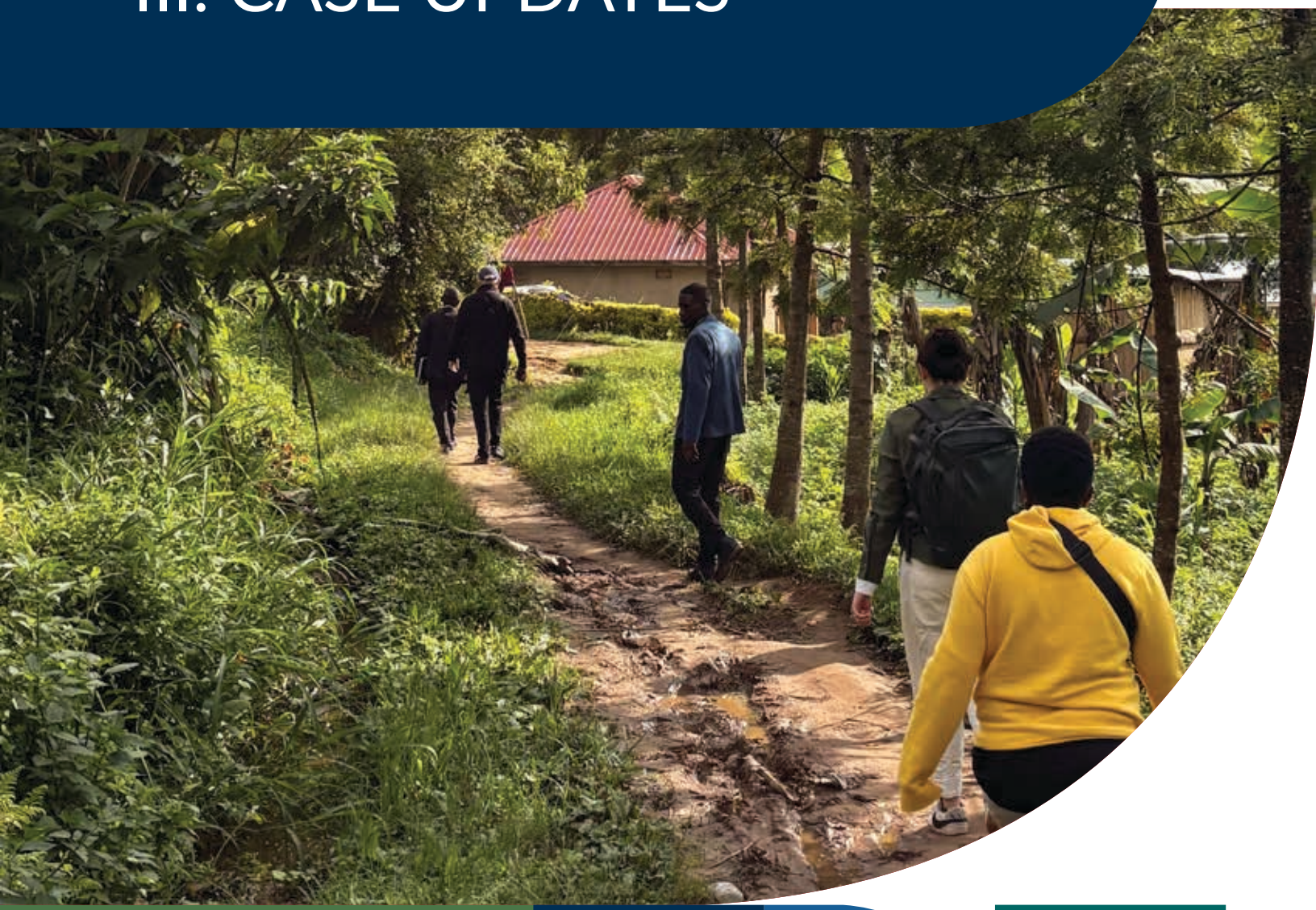
Registration stage: the Panel reviewed eleven Requests for Inspection—one of which was carried over from FY 2025. Of these, seven were not registered. Four Requests concerning projects in Uganda, Mozambique, Indonesia, and Tanzania proceeded to the eligibility stage. The Request concerning the project in Uganda subsequently advanced to investigation.

Eligibility stage: the Panel assessed four Requests for whether they met the Panel's technical eligibility criteria and assessed another four received in FY2025. At the close of the fiscal year, the Panel's recommendation concerning the *Tanzania: Msimbazi Basin Development Project* and the *India: Green National Highways Corridor Project* remained pending, while the *Mozambique: Cyclone Idai and Kenneth Emergency Recovery and Resilience Project* is still with the Dispute Resolution Service. The Panel did not recommend an investigation concerning the *Indonesia: East Kalimantan Project for Emission Reductions Results* and the *Serbia: Public Sector Efficiency and Green Recovery DPL* for the reasons detailed below. The Panel recommended investigations concerning the *Uganda: Investing in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate-Smart Development Project (First Request)* and the *Tajikistan: Sustainable Financing for Rogun Hydropower Project and Technical Assistance for Financing Framework for Rogun Hydropower Project*. However, for the latter the Board rejected the Panel's eligibility determination and consequently the investigation recommendation. Finally, the Panel concluded the process for the Request concerning the *Pakistan: Khyber Pass Economic Corridor Project* since a dispute resolution agreement was reached.

Investigation stage: the Panel investigated projects concerning two Requests. The Panel's investigation of the *Viet Nam: Coastal Cities Sustainable Environment Project (Second Request)* was completed, while its investigation of *Uganda: Investing in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate-Smart Development Project (First Request)* is ongoing at the close of FY 2026.

Verification stage: the Panel processed three Requests at the stage of verification. Carried over from FY 2025, the verification of the implementation of the Management Action Plan (MAP) of the *Togo: West Africa Coastal Areas Resilience Investment Project* was completed, and the Panel's first Verification Report was disclosed. Verification of the implementation of the MAP for the *Tanzania: Resilient Natural Resource Management for Tourism and Growth Project* is ongoing, and the Panel was reviewing the Progress Reports of the implementation of the MAP for the *Bolivia: Santa Cruz Corridor Connector Project* and is still assessing whether to recommend an investigation.

III. CASE UPDATES



1. REGISTRATION

During Fiscal Year 2026, the Panel assessed the admissibility of eleven Requests for Inspection. Of the eleven, seven were deemed not admissible and were not registered. The seven Requests did not meet one of the criteria set out in paragraph 14 of the Panel's Operating Procedures; five did not meet the stipulation that the issues raised be brought to the attention of Management prior to submitting the Request to the Panel. The reasons for non-registration are detailed below.

Project	Reason for Not Registering the Request
1) Sierra Leone: Sierra Leone Economic Diversification Project	Based on a review of Project documents, the Panel determined that the issues raised in the Request fell outside the geographical area of the Project and therefore were not related to the Bank-financed Project as required by paragraph 14(b) of the Panel's Operating Procedures. *See the full Notice of Non-Registration here.*
2) Serbia: Western Balkans—Sava and Drina Rivers Corridors Integrated Development Program	The Panel determined that Management was not made aware of the issues raised in the Request prior to its submission to the Inspection Panel, as set out in paragraph 14 of the Resolution and paragraph 14(d) of the Operating Procedures. *See the full Notice of Non-Registration here.*
3) Nigeria: Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project	The Panel determined that Management was not made aware of the issues raised in the Request prior to its submission to the Inspection Panel, as set out in paragraph 14 of the Resolution and paragraph 14(d) of the Operating Procedures. *See the full Notice of Non-Registration here.*
4) Philippines: Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling Project	The Panel determined that Management was not made aware of the issues raised in the Request prior to its submission, as set out in paragraph 14 of the Resolution and paragraph 14 (d) of the Operating Procedures. *See the full Notice of Non-Registration here.*
5) Ecuador: Emergency Resilient Reconstruction Project	The Panel determined that Management was not made aware of the issues raised in the Request prior to its submission to the Inspection Panel, as set out in paragraph 14 of the Resolution and paragraph 14(d) of the Operating Procedures. *See the full Notice of Non-Registration here.*
6) Uganda: Investing in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate-Smart Development Project (Second Request)	The Panel determined that Management was not made aware of the issues raised in the Request prior to its submission to the Inspection Panel, as set out in paragraph 14 of the Resolution and paragraph 14(d) of the Operating Procedures. *See the full Notice of Non-Registration here.*
7) Cameroon: Electricity Transmission and Reform Project	The Panel determined that this Request did not meet the admissibility criteria set forth in paragraph 13 of the Resolution and paragraph 15(a) of the Operating Procedures, as the Requesters were not the party concerned during the land acquisition. *See the full Notice of Non-Registration here.*

2. ELIGIBILITY

At the eligibility stage, the Panel assessed eight Requests for Inspection, including four carried over from FY 2025. At fiscal year-end, recommendations concerning the *Tanzania: Msimbazi Basin Development Project* and the *India: Green National Highways Corridor Project* remained pending, while the *Mozambique: Cyclone Idai and Kenneth Emergency Recovery and Resilience Project* remained with the Dispute Resolution Service.

The Panel did not recommend investigations into the *Indonesia: East Kalimantan Project for Emission Reductions Results* and for the *Serbia: Public Sector Efficiency and Green Recovery DPL*. It recommended investigations into the *Uganda: Investing in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate-Smart Development Project (First Request)* and the *Tajikistan: Rogun Hydropower Projects*, although the Board did not approve the latter recommendation. The *Pakistan: Khyber Pass Economic Corridor Project* concluded following a dispute resolution agreement. The status of each case is detailed below.

I. Cases at Eligibility - Pending Panel's Recommendation

Tanzania: Msimbazi Basin Development Project

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project No.	P169425
Region	Eastern and Southern Africa
IBRD Loan Amount	US$260 million
Board Approval Date	September 30, 2022
Closing Date	June 30, 2028

The project development objective is to strengthen flood resilience and integrated urban development in an economically important and flood prone area of the Msimbazi river basin in Dar es Salaam, and to provide immediate and effective response to an eligible crisis or emergency.

THE REQUEST

On February 1, 2026, the Panel received a Request for Inspection submitted by two individuals on behalf of themselves and 412 affected people (the "Requesters") from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. They asked the Panel not to disclose their identities for fear of retaliation.

The Request alleged the Project had caused significant harm to the Requesters "through the improper implementation of the compensation and resettlement process." The Request stated that some affected households "have lost their land, building rights and livelihoods without receiving lawful compensation as required under the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and applicable standards."

The Panel conducted its initial due diligence for the Request and met with the Requesters on April 17 and May 14, 2026, and with Management on May 19, 2026. The Panel determined that the Request met all applicable admissibility criteria and on May 29, 2026, the Panel issued a Notice of Registration.

THE PANEL'S ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

On June 28, 2026, Management submitted its Response to the Request for Inspection. As of June 30, 2026, the Panel's assessment of eligibility of the Request was ongoing.

India: Green National Highways Corridor Project

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project No.	P167350
Region	South Asia
IBRD Loan Amount	US$500 million
Board Approval Date	March 20, 2020
Closing Date	June 30, 2029

The project development objective is to demonstrate safe and green National Highway corridors in selected Indian States and enhance the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in mainstreaming safety and green technologies.

THE REQUEST

On February 5, 2025, the Inspection Panel received a Request for Inspection signed by 109 individuals who either live or own shops in the district of Farrukhabad in Uttar Pradesh, India. The Request raised concerns about the Project's widening and fencing off of an existing road that runs through a community market and the plan to construct tollbooths for a toll plaza beside the community. According to the Request, the toll plaza and widened road would obstruct access to the community market, shops, houses and a school, thereby blocking access for 367 students. According to the Request, the Project would threaten community members' livelihoods, as shop-owners may "lose their businesses and face unemployment." The Request also stated that homeowners near the road were concerned they would lose permanent access to their properties once construction is completed. Lastly, the Request claimed that neither the Bank nor the Project Implementing Unit visited their community to consult with them about the Project.

The Panel verified the admissibility of the Request for Inspection and issued the Notice of Registration on March 14, 2025.

THE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

The Panel received the Management Response on May 5, 2025. The Response noted that the original layout of the toll plaza in the 2019 Detailed Project Report required land acquisition that would have affected shops and the school mentioned in the Request. In response to community concerns and following a 2021 court decision, the layout was revised to eliminate land acquisition and the demolition of structures. This change was communicated to the affected households, with further adjustments made to shift the toll administration building and booths away from nearby buildings. According to Management,

despite the revisions, the community remained dissatisfied and filed a complaint with the Bank's Grievance Redress Service. Thus, Management responded to these concerns and requested that works be halted to consider alternatives. The Response further stated that Management required the Borrower to assess impacts of the plaza on livelihoods, road safety, and access to schools, and to provide mitigation and compensation as needed under the Resettlement Policy Framework. Management also advised additional community consultations.

Subsequently, in March 2025, the Borrower informed the Bank it would discontinue construction of the toll plaza at the original site and relocate it about one kilometer away to a site requiring no land acquisition or demolition. Notices were issued in April 2025 to inform residents of the relocation decision, and a joint site visit by the Project Implementing Unit and the Bank was held on April 30, 2025, with direct community interaction.

In conclusion, Management stated that by moving the toll plaza away from its original site, the concerns raised in the Request were "fully addressed," and therefore the Requesters' rights and interests have not been, nor will be, adversely affected by noncompliance with Bank policies and procedures.

THE PANEL'S ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

The Panel submitted its Report and Recommendation to the Board of Executive Directors on June 4, 2025, determining the Request and Requesters eligible and initially recommending an investigation to the Request for Inspection. Following this, and prior to the Board having approved the investigation, Management sent the Panel an Addendum to its initial Response on June 11, 2025, acknowledging lapses in the Bank's application of its policies and procedures and proposing six actions designed to address the residual harms suffered by the Requesters. The Panel met with the Requesters on June 16, 2025, to inform them of the proposed actions set out in the Management's Addendum. After the meeting, the Requesters sent an email to the Panel expressing their agreement with the proposed actions and their gratitude.

Following the agreement from the Requesters, on June 18, 2025, the Panel revised its initial recommendation and deferred its decision for six months to allow time for the actions to be implemented. On July 3, 2025, the Board approved the Panel's deferral pending final recommendation.

On January 9, 2026, Management provided a Progress Report on the six actions to the Panel. The Panel reviewed the Management's Progress Report and noted that some of the actions as originally proposed were incomplete and were expected to be completed by the end of April 2026. With Management's extended deadline to complete the remainder of the six actions, the Panel sought from the Board a further extension until July 15, 2026, to submit its final recommendation. A Panel team conducted a second field visit from June 22-30, 2026.

As of June 30, 2026, the Panel's final recommendation remained pending.

II. Investigation Not Recommended

Serbia: Public Sector Efficiency and Green Recovery Development Policy Loan

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project No.	P164575
Region	Europe and Central Asia
IBRD Loan Amount	EUR82.6 million
Board Approval Date	April 29, 2021
Closing Date	December 31, 2022

The project development objective is to support the Government of Serbia's efforts to (i) increase public-sector efficiency and transparency and (ii) initiate a green recovery.

THE REQUEST

On March 31, 2024, a Request for Inspection was submitted by A11 – Initiative for Economic and Social Rights (the A11 Initiative)—a nongovernmental organization in Belgrade, Serbia—representing six individuals living in Serbia, some of whom belong to the Roma community. A11 Initiative asked Amnesty

International—an international civil society organization—to serve as their advisor in the Panel process.

The Request raised four negative impacts resulting from one of the Project's Prior Actions: the establishment of a Social Card Register (SCR or the "Register") for the consolidation of data on social protection beneficiaries for the purpose of improving social protection policymaking and targeting. First, the Request claimed that the SCR negatively affected approximately 44,000 beneficiaries, and the implementation of the Law on Social Card had a disproportionately negative impact on the social protections of vulnerable citizens—including members of the Roma community—and on their access to financial social benefits. Second, the Request claimed that the Law on Social Card was enacted without prior public consultation, and that the algorithm used to determine whether beneficiaries meet the criteria for financial social assistance was not publicly available, despite repeated requests for information to the Government. Third, the Request alleged that those adversely affected were unable to seek remedy through appropriate administrative means due to the inaccessibility of, and delays in, the appeals process. Fourth, the Request contended that the Law on Social Card disregards a human rights-based approach to data management because of the undisclosed algorithm used, the centralization of data in a single register, noncompliance with the data minimization principle, and the lack of adequate oversight of a semi-automated decision-making system. The Request alleged the Registry exacerbates existing flaws in the system that discriminates against the Roma people.

The Panel verified the admissibility of the Request for Inspection and issued the Notice of Registration on August 27, 2024.

THE PANEL'S ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

The Panel received the Management Response to the Request for Inspection on September 27, 2024. A Panel team visited Serbia from October 15-21, 2024. On November 12, 2024, the Panel submitted to the Board of Executive Directors its Report and Recommendation, an investigation into whether the World Bank had conducted sufficient due diligence to assess whether the establishment of the SCR could have a significant social impact arising from two of the four allegations raised—the loss of benefits as a result of erroneous exclusions and the inaccessibility of, and delays in, the appeals process.

Following several informal interactions prompted by Board members, Management submitted an Addendum to its initial Response on May 28, 2025, describing specific actions it would take to address the two allegations the Panel had recommended for investigation. On October 17, 2025, the Panel submitted a Statement from the Chairperson, deferring its final decision on whether to recommend an investigation for nine months or until the Panel received a progress report from Management regarding the completion of the proposed actions.

On December 4, 2025, Management submitted a detailed Progress Report on the actions it had taken. These included convening workshops with civil society organizations on the lessons learned from the implementation of the SCR; supporting training activities for officials who oversee social protection workers managing the SCR in the Centers for Social Work; and providing analytical work on social assistance in Serbia. Additionally, Management provided information on the mandatory training on environmental and social due diligence that World Bank staff working on Development Policy Financing are required to undertake.

The Panel considered the actions taken by Management and revised its earlier recommendations to the effect of no longer recommending an investigation. On December 18, 2025, the Board approved the Panel's recommendation not to investigate the Project.

Indonesia: East Kalimantan Project for Emission Reductions Results

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project No.	P166244
Region	East Asia and Pacific
Fund Source	US$110.00 million from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility – Carbon Fund
Board Approval Date	November 24, 2020
Closing Date	December 31, 2025

The project development objective is to incentivize reduced deforestation and forest degradation in the Province of East Kalimantan through payment of verified emission reductions, and to ensure that paid amounts are distributed according to an agreed Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP).

THE REQUEST

On November 3, 2025, the Inspection Panel received a Request for Inspection related to the World Bank-financed *Indonesia: East Kalimantan Project for Emission Reductions Results*. The Request was submitted by a local, non-governmental organization (NGO)—Perkumpulan Nurani Perempuan—representing members of the Long Isun community in East Kalimantan. The Requesters chose two international NGOs—Accountability Counsel and the Forest Peoples Programme—to advise them during the Panel process. The Requesters have asked the Panel that their names remain confidential for fear of retaliation.

The Request alleged that the Project, designed to incentivize "reduced deforestation and forest degradation in East Kalimantan, through payments for verified emission reductions and the distribution of these payments under an agreed Benefit Sharing Plan," is causing environmental and social harm to communities. It claimed the Project proceeded despite knowing structural issues—such as delays in recognizing the Long Isun community as Indigenous Peoples—would be deepened by the Project, and that the Project was exacerbating unresolved land and boundary disputes and risks of exclusion and infringement on the Long Isun's land and land-use rights, as well as worsening social divisions.

The Request stated that the Project failed to acknowledge the community's land rights and customary land use, restricted their ability to maintain cultural practices such as forest rituals and rotational swidden farming, and created livelihood losses. It claimed the Project "replaces Indigenous-led forest governance with a market-based, commercial-actor-driven model" that commodifies forests as carbon assets, marginalizing Indigenous stewardship "under the guise of sustainable management." The Request also claimed the BSP "entrenches structural discrimination" by denying the community direct access to benefits. It further alleged that Project consultations were inadequate and misrepresented the community's Free, Prior and Informed Consent, which had prompted the community to opt out of the Project with the expectation that its forest area should be excluded from the Emission Reductions accounting area. The Request claimed the Project made minimal efforts to ensure women participate in ways that reflect their needs and cultural roles. The Request alleged the Project had disproportionately harmed Indigenous women, while failing to recognize, assess, or mitigate these impacts through inclusive and gender-sensitive consultations. It also alleged that, since raising concerns, the community had faced "veiled threats."

The Panel verified the admissibility of the Request for Inspection and registered it on December 23, 2025.

THE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

On February 11, 2026, Management submitted its Response to the Request. In its Response, Management recognized weaknesses and potential non-compliances in the original BSP, and initiated a BSP revision, as well as additional consultations. Management acknowledged that initial consultations

were insufficient and that communities were inadequately informed about the Project and its objective. Management ensured that the Project increased its efforts to engage and consult with villages and community stakeholders, particularly during the revision of the BSP and the socialization of the revised BSP and the final payment. Management indicated that it took the allegation of retaliation seriously and raised these concerns with the authorities at various levels. A Panel team visited Indonesia February 16-27, 2026 to assess the eligibility of the Requesters, the issues raised in the Request, and to determine whether it would recommend an investigation to the Board.

THE PANEL'S ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

On March 17, 2026, the Panel submitted to the Board its Report and Recommendation. In its report, the Panel noted that the Request for Inspection met all the technical eligibility criteria set forth in the Resolution. However, the Panel did not recommend an investigation as it was satisfied that Management had dealt appropriately with those allegations of harm that were plausibly linked to the Project—including the allegations of institutionalized discrimination and exclusion caused by implementation of the BSP, inadequate consultations, and fear of retaliation against the community for its decision not to engage with the Project—and that these allegations had been or were being addressed. The Panel also determined that the Requesters' other allegations—the delays in the Masyarakat Hukum Adat recognition process, the disregard of the customary right to occupy, use, and manage ancestral lands, and the allegation of gender-based violence, exclusion, and discrimination against women—were not plausibly linked to the Project. The Panel further noted that the Requesters are not precluded from submitting another Request for Inspection based on new evidence or circumstances not known at the time of this Request.

On March 31, 2026, the Board approved the Panel's recommendation not to investigate the Project. Thereafter, the Panel met with the Requesters and closed the case.

III. Investigation Recommended

Tajikistan: Sustainable Financing for Rogun Hydropower Project and Technical Assistance (TA) for Financing Framework for Rogun Hydropower Project

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project No.	P181029
Region	Central Asia
IDA Credit Amount	US$350.00 million
Board Approval Date	December 17, 2024
Closing Date	June 30, 2029

The project development objective is to increase supply of clean, affordable, and climate resilient hydroelectricity for consumers in Tajikistan and the Central Asia region by 2 TWh.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project No.	P178819
Region	Central Asia
IDA Credit Amount	US$15.00 million
Board Approval Date	June 12, 2023
Closing Date	December 31, 2026

The project development objective of the TA is to strengthen the Rogun Hydro Power Plant (HPP) Project's financial and commercial frameworks, enhance its environmental and social sustainability, improve transparency, and support establishment of Rogun HPP Project's benefit sharing program.

THE REQUEST

On February 24, 2025, the Panel received a Request for Inspection from two individuals, one based in Turkmenistan, and the other in Uzbekistan, who claim to represent their respective communities. The Request alleges that the *Rogun Hydropower Project* is likely to cause wide-ranging socio-economic and ecological harms downstream of Tajikistan's Vakhsh Hydropower Cascade including in the two riparian countries, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The Request alleges that the Bank did not comply with its Environmental and Social Framework and

the Project's Environmental and Social Management Plan and Environmental and Social Commitment Plan were not "robust". The Request further alleges that the Bank's "errors and omissions" in the design and implementation of the HPP will likely contribute to ecological harm and associated negative environmental, social and human health impacts for downstream communities. The Request also alleges a lack of meaningful consultation and stakeholder engagement in the two riparian countries.

The Panel verified the admissibility of the Request for Inspection and issued the Notice of Registration on April 8, 2025.

THE PANEL'S ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

The Panel received the Management Response to the Request for Inspection on May 23, 2025. Following this, the Panel assessed the eligibility of the Requesters and their Request and, on June 26, 2025, submitted its Report and Recommendation to the Board of Executive Directors.

In its recommendation, the Panel determined that the Request and the Requesters met the technical eligibility criteria based on Panel case precedents, where a project's adverse impacts are alleged to occur in a territory downstream from the borrowing country. The Panel determined that Requesters from the downstream countries who claim to be directly affected by the project are eligible. The Panel also considered that there could be a plausible link between the alleged harm in the Request and the Project.

On November 11, 2025, the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank considered the Panel's Report and Recommendation and concluded that the Request did not meet the technical eligibility criterion as set out in paragraph 29(a) of the Resolution. Consequently the Panel's recommendation was not approved. In making this determination, the Executive Directors did not make a judgment on the merits of the Request. The Panel has closed the case.

Mozambique: Cyclone Idai and Kenneth Emergency Recovery and Resilience Project

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project No.	P171040
Region	Eastern and Southern Africa
IDA Credit Amount	US$130.00 million
Board Approval Date	September 30, 2019
Closing Date	June 30, 2027

The project development objective is to i) support the recovery of public and private infrastructure and livelihoods, ii) strengthen climate resilience in the areas most affected by Cyclones Idai and Kenneth, and iii) provide immediate and effective response to an eligible crisis or emergency.

THE REQUEST

On October 14, 2025, the Inspection Panel received a Request submitted by seven individuals from Beira City, Sofala Province, Mozambique. Five of them authorized the other two Requesters to represent them in the Panel process. The Requesters expressed fear

of retaliation, intimidation, or social exclusion for having brought this Request to the Panel and asked for confidentiality.

The Request described specific impacts on each of the seven families, including allegations of partial or complete demolition of residential and commercial properties, loss of land without prior notice, an inadequate resettlement process, and unfair compensation. It claimed these demolitions had caused a loss of livelihoods and assets, debt, and had impaired the health and well-being of the affected communities. The Request alleged that individuals were pressured into signing compensation agreements after losing land or having had their homes demolished, but that these agreements remain "incomplete or poorly fulfilled."

Additionally, the Request alleged a lack of participation, consultation, and disclosure of information regarding Project design and the resettlement process. It further claimed that successive changes to the drainage channel alignment placed some of the individuals' land and properties "in the middle of the [drainage] passage", leading to partial or complete demolition. Families who had lived, farmed, or owned property in the Project area for as long as 30 years, and were originally outside the impacted area, became affected after the channel was realigned without warning, the Request stated. Furthermore, the Request claimed that some individuals had faced pressure asking them to withdraw their cases and were concerned about reprisals.

The Panel verified the admissibility of the Request for Inspection and issued the Notice of Registration on December 2, 2025.

THE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

On January 23, 2026, the Panel received the Management Response. Management asserted that the issues raised by two of the seven Requesters had been reviewed and addressed in accordance with Bank policy, while it was not given a reasonable opportunity to assess the concerns of the remaining Requesters. It further stated that the Project's safeguard instruments were consistent with Bank policies and applied standardized eligibility and compensation criteria, and that a series of consultations were conducted and relevant information pertaining to Project impacts and the process of compensation was properly disclosed. Management also noted that concerns about retaliation and intimidation were raised with senior government officials and reiterated that the Bank does not tolerate such actions.

THE PANEL'S ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

A Panel team visited Mozambique January 23–29, 2026, to inform its Report and Recommendation to the Board as to whether an investigation into the matters alleged in the Request was warranted.

During the Panel's eligibility visit, the Requesters raised serious concerns regarding the community's health and safety, citing reports of alleged fatalities in the Project's drainage canal construction areas. The Panel raised these concerns and other safety concerns with Management on January 28, 2026, to offer Management an opportunity to respond. On February 18, 2026, Management submitted an Addendum to the Management Response responding to concerns raised about communities' health and safety. Upon receiving the Addendum, the Panel requested an extension to allow sufficient time to finalize its recommendation. The Board approved that

request, extending the date of submission of the report to March 10, 2026. During the Panel's eligibility phase, the Panel received five additional signatures from individuals who stated they wanted to join the Request.

On March 11, 2026, the Panel submitted its report determining the Request and Requesters eligible and recommending an investigation into the alleged harm and non-compliances with applicable World Bank standards. The Panel noted that the issues raised may extend beyond a specific case and could potentially reflect broader systemic challenges in the implementation of the Project's safeguards. Based on its assessment, the Panel specifically recommended an investigation into the Bank's compliance with applicable policies and procedures in relation to Environmental and Standard (ESS) 1—Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts; ESS4—Community Health and Safety; ESS5—Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement; and ESS10—Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure.

On March 24, 2026, the Board approved, on a no-objection basis, the Panel's recommendation to investigate the Bank in relation to the Project and the allegations raised in the Request.

THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

As per the Resolution, following Board approval of the Panel's recommendation to investigate, the Head of DRS offered the Requesters and Borrower the opportunity to pursue a dispute resolution process facilitated by the DRS.

On May 4, 2026, the Head of DRS informed the Board, the Panel, and Management that the parties had voluntarily agreed to engage in the dispute resolution process. The maximum length of a dispute resolution process is one year with a possible extension of six months. As of June 30, 2026, the Panel was holding its investigation in abeyance until the conclusion of the dispute resolution process.

Pakistan: Khyber Pass Economic Corridor Project

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project No.	P159577
Region	South Asia
IDA Credit Amount	US$460.6 million
Board Approval Date	June 14, 2018
Closing Date	May 28, 2026

The project development objective is to expand economic activity between Pakistan and Afghanistan by improving regional connectivity and promoting private-sector development along the Khyber Pass corridor.

THE REQUEST

On June 1, 2024, the Panel received a Request for Inspection signed by 448 individuals living in the area under consideration for the Southern Link Road (SLR) development project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan.

The Request raised five main concerns specific to the design and route alignment of the SLR—a new, four-lane road to be constructed as part of the Project. First, concerns about the impact of land-take required for the road and that, based on previous experience with a non-Bank-funded project in the area, compensation would be inadequate, and payments would be delayed. Second, there were concerns that the Project-supported road would heighten tensions and conflicts in the Project area, resulting in increased violence. Third, the Request alleged that the SLR's design—particularly its elevation—would impact traditional cultural practices in homes adjacent to the road, and that the road alignment would damage physical cultural resources. Fourth, the Request claimed community members and elected local authorities were neither informed nor meaningfully consulted about the SLR. Fifth, the Requesters raised concerns about environmental and noise pollution, and they claimed the publicly disclosed Project documents lack feasible solutions to these concerns.

The Panel verified the admissibility of the Request for Inspection and issued the Notice of Registration on July 8, 2024.

THE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

On August 9, 2024, the Panel received the Management Response. The Response stated that the Bank's policies and procedures had been properly applied, and that the Requesters' rights or interests had not been adversely affected. It emphasized that the Project was still in its early stages, with no land acquisition or road construction yet underway, making the Request premature. Management noted that the final road alignment had not been determined under the design-build modality contract strategy, and that all impacts and risks identified in the Request had already been considered in the Project's design, environmental assessments, and mitigation measures. Once the alignment was finalized, the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Resettlement Action Plan were to be updated with further consultations.

Regarding resettlement and compensation, Management stated that the Project would comply with both the Bank's Involuntary Resettlement Policy and Pakistan's Land Acquisition Act of 1894. It added that compensation would be provided at replacement cost to both owners and users of land, verified by an external monitoring agent before construction began. It also added that a Livelihood Restoration Plan was also being prepared to support vulnerable groups through training and income-generation activities. Management clarified that preliminary land acquisition notifications did not affect land use rights, and compensation would be offered if any damage occurred during surveys.

The Response addressed broader risks, including potential conflict, cultural concerns, and environmental impacts. Management stated that measures such as strong security arrangements through the Frontier Constabulary, and a Security Management Plan would help mitigate risks of conflict or violence. Privacy concerns related to cultural practices like purdah would be addressed through design features and grievance mechanisms, while any graves found would only be relocated with family and religious consent, the Response stated. Consultations had already involved hundreds of affected people, with further intensified engagement planned, it added. Finally, according to the Management Response, environmental and noise impacts were to be covered under the ESIA and Environmental and Social Management Plan, which were to be updated once the final road alignment was set.

THE PANEL'S ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

On September 27, 2024, the Panel submitted its Report and Recommendation to the Board. In its assessment, the Panel determined that the Request and Requesters met the technical eligibility criteria set out in the Resolution. The Panel considered the alleged harms to be plausibly linked to the Project and considered that the allegations and concerns raised in the Request, taken together, constituted potentially serious harm and policy non-compliance. Based on its observations and review, the Panel recommended conducting an investigation into the allegations of material adverse impacts, and related compliance with the applicable World Bank policies, in relation to: (i) livelihoods, as the resettlement process had started before the road alignment had been finalized, impacting landowners' ability to sell or improve land assets; (ii) lack of meaningful consultation with potentially affected communities, including their inability to share an alternative road alignment; and (iii) community concerns in relation to renewed and increased conflicts and violence that the SLR may bring. On October 11, 2024, the Board approved the Panel's recommendation to investigate the Request.

THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

As per the Resolution, following the Board approval of the Panel's recommendation to investigate, the Head of DRS offered the Requesters and Borrower the opportunity to pursue a dispute resolution process facilitated by the DRS.

On November 14, 2024, the Head of DRS reported to the Board, the Panel, and Management that the parties had voluntarily agreed to engage in the dispute resolution process. The maximum length of a DR process is one year with a possible extension of six months.

On November 13, 2025, the Head of DRS informed the Executive Directors, the Panel and Management

that the parties had signed an interim agreement, partially addressing the eligible issues in the case, with the dispute resolution process continuing and extended for a maximum of six additional months. On January 20, 2026, the parties signed a final Dispute Resolution Agreement, which superseded the interim agreement. The confidential agreement contained commitments in relation to the resolution of the eligible issues and implementation was organized through a time-bound plan. At the request of the Parties, the DRS is monitoring the implementation of the agreement for a maximum period of one year from the date of its signature, unless otherwise extended by both Parties. Given that the Parties had reached agreement through dispute resolution, the Panel issued a memorandum on February 13, 2026, closing the case.

3. INVESTIGATION

I. Investigation Completed

Viet Nam: Vietnam Coastal Cities Sustainable Environment Project (Second Request)

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project No.	P156143
Region	East Asia and Pacific
IBRD Loan & IDA Credit Amounts	IBRD Loan Amount: US$34.2 million IDA Credit Amount: US$156.4 million
Board Approval Date	May 5, 2017
Closing Date	June 30, 2024
The project development objective is to increase access to sanitation services and improve the operational performance of sanitation utilities in the Project cities.	

THE REQUEST

On August 27, 2023, the Inspection Panel received a Request submitted by 31 individuals from the Project area of Nha Trang City, Khanh Hoa Province, Viet Nam. The Panel issued a Notice of Receipt on September 8, 2023, and registered the Request on September 25, 2023.

The Request raised the following, interrelated allegations concerning the resettlement process. It said the restrictions placed on the properties of affected households in the Ngoc Hiep Resettlement Site (NHRS) since 2016 effectively kept owners from applying for new land certificates or repairing or renting their structures. The Request claimed inconsistent application of resettlement policies and related consultations resulted in unfair treatment of some affected households by the Project. The Request also alleged that the inadequacy of the valuation methodology used for Project-related resettlement created unfairly low compensation packages for the affected households. The Request claimed there was intimidation during the resettlement process, and that households were excluded from the resettlement process for having complained about aspects of the Project.

The Panel verified the admissibility of the Request for Inspection and issued the Notice of Registration on September 25, 2023.

THE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Management provided its Responses to the allegations made in the Request and the additional issues raised on November 8 and December 20, 2023, respectively. Management stated that it had complied with Bank policies and procedures applicable to the matters raised in the Request and that the Requesters' rights or interests have not been, nor will they be, directly and adversely affected by a failure of the Bank.

THE PANEL'S ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

A Panel team visited Viet Nam November 14-21, 2023, to inform its Report and Recommendation to determine eligibility and to recommend to the Board that it approves an investigation into the matters alleged in the Request. During the visit, the Panel team met with various stakeholders including officials in Ha Noi from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Construction, and the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment, as well as Bank staff. In Nha Trang City, the team met with officials of the Khanh Hoa Provincial Peoples' Committee, the Compensation Committee, and the Ngoc Hiep Ward People's Committee. The team also met with the Requesters in the NHRS.

On January 22, 2024, the Panel recommended an investigation into the alleged issues of harm and related possible non-compliance with the applicable World Bank policies and procedures. In its recommendation, the Panel noted that the Request and Requesters met the technical eligibility criteria set out in the Resolution. The Panel considered the alleged harm to be plausibly linked to the Project. The Panel also determined that the Request raised several issues that, taken together, constituted a serious allegation of harm and possible policy noncompliance. On February 5, 2024, the Board approved the Panel recommendation.

THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

As per the Resolution, following the Board approval of the Panel's recommendation to investigate, the Head of DRS offered the Requesters and Borrower the opportunity to pursue a dispute resolution process.

On March 12, 2024, the Head of DRS reported to the Board, the Panel, and Management that the parties had voluntarily agreed to engage in the dispute resolution process. The maximum length of a DR process is one year, with a possible extension of six months. On March 7, 2025, the dispute resolution process was extended for six months with a final deadline of September 11, 2025. However, on August 7, 2025, the Head of DRS informed the Board and the Panel that the dispute resolution process concluded without a signed agreement.

PANEL'S INVESTIGATION

On September 11, 2025, the Panel published its Investigation Plan and thereafter proceeded with expert selection, document review, and Bank staff interviews. A Panel team conducted an investigation visit to Viet Nam from November 16–23, 2025. The Panel undertook extensive research and drafting of the Investigation Report, incorporating expert inputs, internal and successive internal peer reviews, and clearance by Panel Members. Following this process, the Panel finalized and submitted its Investigation Report to the Board on April 16, 2026.

As of June 30, 2026, the Board consideration of the Investigation Report and approval of the corresponding Management Report remained pending.

II. Investigation Ongoing

Uganda: Investing in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate-Smart Development Project (First Request)

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project No.	P170466
Region	Eastern and Southern Africa
IDA Credit Amount	IDA Credit Amount: US$78.2 million IDA18 Refugee Sub-Window: US$70 million
Board Approval Date	April 23, 2020
Closing Date	June 30, 2026
The project development objective is to improve the sustainable management of forests and protected areas and increase benefits to communities from forests in target landscapes.	

THE REQUEST

On August 29, 2026, the Panel received a Request for Inspection submitted by two individuals who claimed to speak on behalf of the Batwa Indigenous Peoples living around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park. The Requesters

raised concerns about serious threats and intimidation against them and asked for confidentiality.

The Request alleged the World Bank-financed Project was perpetuating historical injustices against the Batwa people. It claimed the Project had excluded the Batwa from meaningful participation and alleged that Project consultations were not "proper" Indigenous consultations. The Request also alleged that the Bank's "acceptance of unauthorized representation" is interfering with the Indigenous Peoples consultation process and that the Project had not applied the Bank's Environmental and Social Standard: Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (ESS7)—specifically the requirements for Free, Prior, and Informed Consent.

The Request stated the Project presented an opportunity for co-management and sharing of revenues generated from tourism that could support the livelihoods of the Batwa people but alleged the Project is systematically excluding the Batwa from such benefits, further marginalizing them, and disregarding their traditional forest knowledge and cultural practices. Moreover, the Request claimed the Project funded tourism initiatives that exploit Batwa culture but excluded Batwa communities from revenue-sharing associated with tourism. Furthermore, the Requesters raised serious concerns about their safety in connection with the Project.

The Panel conducted its initial due diligence and met with the Requesters on September 24, 2025, and October 2, 2025, and with Bank Management on October 1, 2025. The Panel determined that the Request met all applicable admissibility criteria and on October 14, 2025, the Panel registered the Request.

THE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

On December 1, 2025, the Panel received the Management Response. In its Response, Management stated that the harms alleged by the Requesters largely stemmed from historical circumstances predating the Project and that the Project neither perpetuated these injustices nor adversely affected Batwa claims to land and natural resources. It stated that the Project had sought to expand Batwa participation and benefits through co-management arrangements, Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups Plans, livelihood support, resource access, and targeted consultations consistent with ESS7. Management stated that the Batwa were not excluded from meaningful participation, explaining that consultations had involved Batwa communities, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders and that disagreements over legitimate Batwa representation predated the Project. It further stated that tourism revenue-sharing schemes cited by the Requesters are separate from the Project and that the Project had sought to incorporate Batwa traditional knowledge and cultural practices without supporting the commercial exploitation of Batwa cultural heritage. Regarding alleged reprisals and intimidation, Management emphasized the Bank's zero-tolerance approach to retaliation and stated that it raised the Requesters' concerns with senior government officials after becoming aware of them.

THE PANEL'S ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

A Panel team visited Uganda November 6-11, 2025, to meet with the Requesters and December 1-6, 2025, to meet with the World Bank staff and Project Implementing Unit.

On January 9, 2026, the Panel recommended an investigation into some of the alleged issues of harm in the Request for Inspection and related possible noncompliance with the applicable World Bank policies. The Panel determined a plausible link between the Requesters' allegation with respect to the Project

On January 9, 2026, the Panel recommended an investigation into some of the alleged issues of harm in the Request for Inspection and related possible noncompliance with the applicable World Bank policies. The Panel determined a plausible link between the Requesters' allegation with respect to the Project perpetuating the marginalization and exclusion of the Batwa in relation to their ancestral claim to access natural resources in the forests from which they were evicted. However, the Panel excluded from its recommendation to investigate claims made in relation to compensation, land and restitution of historical evictions as they fell outside the Project's scope and, thus, the Panel's mandate. The Panel also determined that the alleged harm associated with tourism-related revenue-sharing schemes was also not directly linked to the Project.

On January 23, 2026, the Board approved, on a no-objection basis, the Panel's recommendation to investigate the Bank in relation to the Project and the allegations raised in the Request.

THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

As per the Resolution, following the Board approval of the Panel's recommendation to investigate, the Head of DRS offered the Requesters and Borrower the opportunity to pursue a dispute resolution process.

On March 9, 2026, the Head of DRS informed the Panel that the parties did not agree to pursue dispute resolution. Pursuant to paragraph 32 of the Resolution, the Panel commenced its investigation following this notification.

PANEL'S INVESTIGATION

On April 9, 2026, the Panel published its Investigation Plan and proceeded with the selection of experts, document review, and Bank staff interviews throughout the final quarter of FY 2026. As of June 30, 2026, the investigation is ongoing, with the Panel targeting completion of the Investigation Report in November 2026.

4. VERIFICATION

In line with paragraphs 52 and 53 of the Panel Resolution and paragraphs 9 and 11 of the Verification Framework, the Panel assesses the proportionality criteria listed in the verification framework, which includes the following parameters as its basis: (i) urgency for redress, (ii) risk of repetitive harm, (iii) number and vulnerability of project-affected people, (iv) complexity of the case, and (v) risk of retaliation against Requesters. The Panel then recommends a verification of the implementation of a MAP. During FY 2026, the Panel completed the verification of the *Togo WACA Project*, continued the verification of MAP implementation for the *Tanzania REGROW Project*, and reviewed Management's Progress Reports for the *Santa Cruz Road Corridor Connector Project* in Bolivia to determine whether verification should be recommended. Below are the updates on the three cases.

I. Verification Completed

Togo, Western Africa: West Africa Coastal Areas Resilience Investment Project, Additional Financing, and Global Environment Facility

On June 12, 2025, the Panel recommended the verification of the MAP related to the Panel's investigation of the Project. The Panel had reviewed the eight Risk-Based Proportionality Criteria and determined that seven of the eight criteria had been met. However, in its assessment the Panel identified specific concerns regarding the urgency of redress, the risk of repetitive harm materializing, the number and vulnerability of project-affected people, the complexity of the case, and the risk of retaliation against Requesters. On June 30, 2025, the Board approved the Panel's recommendation for verification. From September 3-6, 2025, a Panel team conducted a site visit and met with Bank staff, government officials, the Project Implementing Unit, and the Requesters.

On December 2, 2025, the Panel submitted its Verification Report to the Board. Management submitted its Response to the Verification Report on May 18, 2026. On May 21, 2026, both the Verification Report and Management Response were disclosed on the Panel's website and the case was closed.

II. Board Decision Pending

Tanzania: Resilient Natural Resource Management for Tourism and Growth

Following an April 1, 2025, meeting at which the Board approved the MAP, the Panel submitted its recommendation to verify the action plan on July 11, 2025. On November 21, 2025, the Board approved

the recommendation and made it available on the Panel website on December 3, 2025. On February 10, 2026, the Panel received the first Progress Report on the implementation of the MAP. As of June 30, 2026, the Panel's verification process was ongoing.

III. Reviewing Progress Report

Bolivia: Santa Cruz Road Corridor Connector Project

On June 6, 2025, Management issued its first Progress Report on MAP implementation, which the Panel reviewed in accordance with the Risk-Based Proportionality Criteria to determine whether to recommend verification. On June 15, 2026, the Panel received Management's second Progress Report and considered it as part of its ongoing assessment. At the close of FY 2026, the Panel's assessment remained ongoing and will inform its determination on whether to recommend verification of MAP implementation.