



The Inspection Panel

THE WORLD BANK  
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INSPECTION PANEL NEWSLETTER

# ACCOUNTABILITY MATTERS

OCTOBER 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

### Kenya Investigation

Board considers investigation report and approves mediation.

### Kosovo Investigation

Investigation on alleged resettlement harms initiated.

### Blog on Lima

Gonzalo Castro de la Mata reminisces on his home town which recently hosted the Annual Meetings.

### Regional Outreach Workshop

See synopsis of regional events held in Lebanon and Peru

### Staff Changes

Tamara Milsztajn recently joined the Panel Team

### Annual Report 2015

Panel published its 2015 Annual Report highlighting its compliance investigations and policy dialogues.

## ABOUT THE PANEL

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

[www.inspectionpanel.org](http://www.inspectionpanel.org)

## FEATURE

### ELECTRICITY EXPANSION (KENYA) - Board Approves Mediation



On October 20, 2015, the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors met to discuss the Panel's investigation into the "Kenya: Electricity Expansion Project" which was jointly financed by the World Bank, European Investment Bank (EIB) and other donor agencies. The complaint was filed by indigenous Maasai communities living within the Hell's Gate National Park in the Rift Valley and was related to the construction of a geothermal plant which led to the resettlement of four villages. The Panel found that the resettlement had caused harms to the most vulnerable households due to non-compliance with the indigenous peoples' policy as well as the resettlement policy. The Complaints Mechanism of the EIB (EIB-CM) has started a mediation process with the aim of reaching an agree-

ment on remedial actions between the government implementing agency and the Complainants. Bank Management will cooperate with EIB-CM, through its Grievance Redress Service. The Board approved this way forward and asked Management to return to the Board within one year to present the results of the mediation and an Action Plan for its approval. [More](#)

## ACTIVE CASES

### MINING INFRASTRUCTURE (MONGOLIA) - Panel Defers Recommendation

The Panel received a Complaint on February 2015 from several Mongolian and Russian community groups related to the Mining Infrastructure Investment Support Project (MINIS). The Complainants alleged that if the feasibility studies of the Shuren Dam and the Orkhon Gobi Water Diversion projects go forward, they could have severe impacts on communities in Mongolia and on Russia's Lake Baikal, which is a World Heritage Site. The Panel decided to defer its recommendation on July 2015 as to whether an investigation is warranted, and determined to make this Recommendation within one year's time after assessing the progress, scope and coverage of the feasibility and environmental and social studies, as well as the quality of the consultation process. [More](#)



### POWER PROJECT (KOSOVO) - Panel Investigation Underway



The Panel received a Complaint from residents of Hade and Obiliq in Kosovo on June 12, 2015. The Complaint identifies several harms related to displacement, restrictions on land use, and loss of livelihood connected to the expansion of a large lignite coal mine. The Panel registered the complaint on June 30, 2015, and after a visit by a Panel Team in August 2015, the Panel recommended an investigation of the issues raised in the complaint. The Board approved the Panel's recommendation on September 17, 2015, and the investigation is underway. [More](#)

### TRANSPORT SECTOR (UGANDA) - Panel Registered Complaint

The Panel received a Complaint from three representatives of the Bigodi and Nyabubale-Nkingo communities in Uganda on September 11, 2015 related to a road paving project, the Transport Sector Development Project - Additional Financing. The Complainants raise a number of allegations including underage sex and teenage pregnancy caused by road workers, increased spread of HIV/AIDS, sexual harassment of female employees, child labor, inadequate resettlement practices, fear of retaliation, and lack of road safety. The Panel registered the case on September 28, 2015, and is now waiting for Management's response. [More](#)

## CLOSED CASE

### FLOODS EMERGENCY (SERBIA) Panel Issued Notice of Non-Registration



The Panel received in September 2015 a Complaint related to the Floods Emergency Recovery Project in Serbia, raising concerns about impacts from the dewatering of a flooded coal mine. After careful examination of the evidence and a site visit, the Panel issued a Notice of

Non-Registration as it confirmed that the alleged harms are not linked to a Bank project. [More](#)

## BLOGS

### Lima the Enchanted

Gonzalo Castro de la Mata Panel Chairperson, Castro de la Mata, reminisces in this blog about how his home town of Lima has grown in recent decades and just hosted the 2015 Annual Meetings. As he notes, the Lima of his childhood is gone, having been replaced by a megalopolis of 12 million people, 5 times larger than in the 1960s. Its innocence is nowhere to be found, and today Lima is like any large city, overwhelmingly vast, contaminated, and chaotic. Yet at the same time it has retained the enchantment that made it the capital of the new world in the 1600s, earning it the name “the Pearl of the Pacific” as the seat of the rich Viceroyalty that made Spain the most powerful Empire in the world. Lima today is sophisticated and vibrant. The delegates attending the Bank meetings were treated to an amazing array of tradition and modernity, and enjoyed a delightful display of culture and gastronomy that keeps Lima as a destination in its own right. The impeccable organization of the Annual Meetings is a tribute to the capacity of this country to rise to the most difficult challenges, as well as to the hard work of our Bank colleagues that supported these efforts.



[More](#)

## OUTREACH

### Latin American CSO Outreach Workshop



The Inspection Panel joined other Independent Accountability Mechanisms (IAMS) and leading Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to organize a regional outreach workshop in Lima, Peru on October 5, 2015. The “IAMS – CSOs Accountability Workshop” brought together some 100 civil society

representatives, indigenous leaders and accountability experts from over 15 Latin American countries to discuss compliance review and community redress experiences within the region.

[More](#)

## OUTREACH (Contd.)

### Policy Sessions at the 2015 Annual Meetings

The Inspection Panel hosted two policy dialogue sessions during the 2015 Annual Meetings held in Lima, Peru on October 6 – 12. The sessions brought together the Panel Chairperson, World Bank managers, and CSO leaders to discuss issues of accountability and community redress in Latin America. [More](#)



### MENA CSO Outreach Workshop



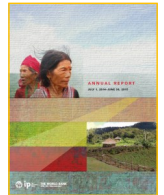
The Inspection Panel along with the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) participated in a CSO Outreach Workshop in Beirut, Lebanon on September 20 and 21, 2015. The workshop brought together over 50 Civil Society representatives from six Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

countries. [More](#)

## PANEL NEWS

### 2015 Annual Report

The Panel just published its 2015 Annual Report. The Panel had a busy year and the report highlights its compliance investigations, outreach efforts, and policy dialogue sessions. See key year-end messages from the three independent Panel Members and graphs illustrating the Panel's work over the past 22 years.



### Staff Announcement



Tamara Milsztajn joined the team in August and coming from the World Bank's OPCS and Latin America Region where she worked on issues related to social and environmental safeguards. Tatiana Tassoni, an Operations Officer with over 12 years of experience at the Panel has taken a 1-year assignment with the Operations Policy and Country System (OPCS) to assist them with the recently launched Grievance Redress Service (GRS).

[More](#)

### Visit by Columbia University Students

A group of law students from the Columbia University Human Rights Advocates Program visited the Panel on October 19, 2015 to discuss the role and work of the Panel. The ten human rights practitioners from different parts of the world, shared their experiences working on human rights issues in diverse contexts and discussed several aspects of their work with the Panel team.



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