



The Inspection Panel

THE WORLD BANK
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ACCOUNTABILITY MATTERS

JULY 2016

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Uganda Transport / Kosovo Power

Panel is finalizing its investigations in both cases and reports are expected to go to the Board later this summer.

Mongolia MINIS and Armenia Cases

Board approves Panel recommendations to defer decisions on whether to investigate the MINIS project in Mongolia and an irrigation project in Armenia.

New Cases

Panel issues Notices of Receipt for cases in Colombia, Mexico and Uganda.

Outreach Events

Panel takes part in outreach events in Japan, Mexico and New York.

Summer Interns

Truman Scholars finish Panel internship.

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

ACTIVE CASES

TRANSPORT SECTOR DEVELOPMENT (UGANDA) – Finalizing Investigation

The Inspection Panel in late July was finalizing its investigation into a complaint concerning a World Bank-financed road project in Uganda and was preparing to send its report to the Bank's Board of Executive Directors for consideration. The September 2015 complaint concerns the upgrading and rehabilitation of 66 kilometers between Kamwenge and Fort Portal Road. Complainants alleged that road workers engaged in sex with minors and caused teenage pregnancies, and that the project resulted in an increased incidence of sex work, the spread of the sexually transmitted infections, an increase in child labor and school dropouts, and sexual harassment of female employees. They also alleged failures in the involuntary resettlement process, poor compensation, fear of retaliation, and a lack of both community participation in the project and of adequate road and workplace health and safety measures. The project was canceled by the Bank on December 21, 2015. [More](#)



POWER PROJECT (KOSOVO) – Investigation Report Nears Completion



The Panel is completing its investigation into a complaint regarding a power project in Kosovo and expects to send a report to the Board of Executive Directors later this summer. The June 2015 Request for Inspection came from residents of Kosovo's Hade village and Obiliq municipality and raised several instances of harm related to loss of land, loss of livelihoods, restrictions on economic development and forced displacement. Requesters believe the Bank caused harm through its engagement in Kosovo's power sector over the years – including through the preparation of the Resettlement

Action Plan for the Shala neighborhood of Hade village, and the Resettlement Policy Framework for the New Mining Field, which sets the standard for future resettlement expected as the Sibovc Mine expands. [More](#)

IRRIGATION ENHANCEMENT (ARMENIA) – Investigation Decision Deferred

The Board of Executive Directors on July 20 approved the Panel's recommendation to defer a decision on whether the Panel should investigate two Requests for Inspection of the Armenia Irrigation System Enhancement Project. The project is designed to convert four pump-based irrigation systems into gravity irrigation with the aim of eliminating electricity use and thereby reducing costs. Requests received on March 18 and May 3 from the Goght community and residents of Garni village, respectively, allege potential negative impacts on the supply of irrigation water, inadequate consultation and participation processes, and impacts on cultural property. Shortly after the Panel's eligibility visit in June, Bank management informed the Panel that the government of Armenia was proposing modifications to the project that require the Bank's reappraisal of it. As a result, the Panel recommended deferring a decision on whether to investigate the complaints. The Panel said it would reassess the situation when further developments take place and will inform the Board of its recommendation on whether to investigate within a year. [More](#)



MINING INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT SUPPORT (MONGOLIA) – Second Deferral



The Board on July 20 approved the Panel's recommendation to defer for a second time a decision on whether the Panel should investigate a complaint related to the Mining Infrastructure Investment Support (MINIS) Project in Mongolia. In a February 2015 Request for Inspection, the complainants had claimed that the project is supporting two subprojects that may have potential irreversible environmental and social impacts on the Selenge River in Mongolia and on Lake Baikal in the Russian Federation. On July 27, 2015, the Board had approved the Panel's initial recommendation to defer a decision

on whether to investigate the Request. In recommending a second deferral, the Panel said it had been following the situation closely and noted the "positive developments and actions that have been made in the consultation process." The Panel stated, however, that several actions to address the Requesters concerns are pending and required additional time to be implemented. The Panel said it would report back to the Board within one year's time after assessing the progress and scope of the project's Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and the quality of the consultation process both in Russia and Mongolia. [More](#)

NEW REQUESTS

The Panel recently issued Notices of Receipt regarding three Requests for Inspection related to projects in Colombia, Mexico and Uganda. In the line with its Operating Procedures, the Panel is reviewing the Requests to determine their admissibility.

Colombia: Rio Bogota Environmental Recuperation and Flood Control

The Panel received a Request for Inspection on June 23 relating to the Bank-financed Rio Bogota Environmental Recuperation and Flood Control Project in Colombia. The Request raises concerns about the expansion of the Salitre Waste Water Treatment Plant – claiming that it will have negative environmental impacts on the wetlands and ecosystem of the area, and public health impacts on nearby communities. The Requesters also complain about lack of consultation and access to information. [More](#)

Mexico: Urban Transport Transformation Project

The Panel received a Request for Inspection on April 1 in connection with the Urban Transport Transformation Project in Mexico. The Requesters claim that inadequate planning and project design is leading to environmental degradation. [More](#)

Uganda: Water Management and Development & Private Power Generation (Bujagali) (Kalagala Offset)

The Panel received a Request on June 20. The complaint relates to the Bank-financed Uganda Water Management and Development Project and the Uganda Private Power Generation (Bujagali) Project. The Requesters claim that the two projects will fail in their objective to remedy the environmental and social harm that may occur to the Kalagala Offset from the filling of a reservoir for a downstream dam. [More](#)

OUTREACH

Panel Joins IAMs at Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Meeting

The Panel, along with independent accountability mechanisms (IAMs) from five other international financial institutions, held a session for the first time at the annual meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment. The annual meeting in Nagoya, Japan, brought together some 800 practitioners in impact assessment from around the world. The May 11 session discussed the experiences of the IAMs and how they can help build resilient and sustainable projects and respond to the needs of the communities affected by projects supported by development institutions like the World Bank. [Chairman Gonzalo Castro de la Mata](#) presented lessons from Panel cases involving environmental and social assessment over the last 22 years. [More](#)

Panel, Other IAMs Meet with Mexican CSOs



The Panel and four other IAMs on June 8 joined more than 80 representatives of civil society from 17 Mexican states for an all-day workshop in Mexico City. Panel [Chairman Gonzalo Castro de la Mata](#) and his counterparts at the Compliance Advisor

Ombudsman, the Complaints Mechanism of the European Investment Bank, MICI of the Inter-American Development Bank and OPIC's Office of Accountability made presentations on their operations and heard from civil society organizations (CSOs) on their experiences engaging with the IAMs. Small group discussions between IAM and CSO representatives were held during the afternoon session. [More](#)

Panel Discusses Its Work at UN Forums

The Panel took part in two outreach events at the United Nations this spring. On May 10, the Panel sponsored an [event at the 15th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#) to explain its mandate and process, and to discuss lessons emerg-

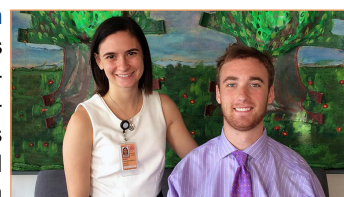
ing from Panel cases related to indigenous peoples over two decades. Panel [member Zeinab Bashir Elbakri](#) moderated the event at the United Nations headquarters and [Operations Officer Birgit Kuba](#) presented the emerging lessons, which will form the foundation of a Panel report to be published this fall. On June 15, the Panel and [Catalina Devandas Aguilar](#), the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, co-sponsored an [event at the 9th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(COSP9\)](#). Ms. Devandas Aguilar said that the session was important for the disabilities community to “try to better understand the tools in the system” to promote inclusive development, accountability and how to utilize the independent monitoring mechanisms that exist at the World Bank and other international financial institutions.



PANEL NEWS

Summer Interns

The Panel welcomed [Kathleen Wilson](#) and [Jay Ruckelshaus](#) as summer interns in June. Kathleen graduated with BA in economics and international affairs from University of Georgia and Jay graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in political science from Duke University. Kathleen collaborated on drafting the emerging lessons publication on indigenous peoples, contributed to the Uganda investigation report, and researched ongoing Panel cases. Jay contributed to the preparation of the Panel's upcoming report on lessons emerging from cases involving environmental and social assessment, assessed the admissibility of new Requests and performed supplementary research. Both worked with the Panel until the end of July. [More](#)



CONTACT US: The Inspection Panel, 1818 H Street NW, The World Bank, Mail Stop: MC10-1007, Washington, D.C. 20433, U.S.A.
Tel: +1 202 458 5200, Fax: +1 202 522 0916, Email: ipanel@worldbank.org, Website: www.inspectionpanel.org

