

INDIAN LAW RESOURCE CENTER

CENTRO DE RECURSOS JURÍDICOS PARA LOS PUEBLOS INDÍGENAS

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Informative Note - February 19, 2020

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS ON THE I.D.B.'S DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL POLICY FRAMEWORK



The Indian Law Resource Center is a non-profit law and advocacy organizations established and directed by American Indians. The Center provides legal assistance without charge to Indian and Alaska Native Nations and other Indigenous communities in the Americas that are working to protect their lands, resources, human rights, environment, and cultural heritage. Our principle goal is the preservation and well-being of Indian and other Native Nations and tribes.

The Inter-American Development Bank (I.D.B.) has officially begun the review of its socio-environmental policies, including its OP-765 Operational Policy on Indigenous Peoples of 2006. The result of this revision process will be a new Environmental and Social Policy Framework that will contain several socio-environmental policies in a single policy framework. The safeguard measures contained in these policies are critical to prevent projects financed by the I.D.B. from adversely affecting indigenous peoples and other local communities, as well as the environment on which they depend upon for their survival.

What has happened in the modernization process so far?

On July 2, 2019, the I.D.B.'s Board of Executive Directors approved the [Policy Profile](#), the document that governs the review process and indicates which policies are subject to review, as well as the plans on how the review process ought to be carried out.

On August 8, 2019, the I.D.B. held a meeting in Washington, D.C. in order to discuss the review process and the necessary safeguard measures to prevent adverse impacts to indigenous peoples and their environment. Within the framework of this meeting, some representatives of indigenous organizations participated and demanded that the I.D.B. carry out a significant consultation process dedicated to gathering inputs from representatives of indigenous peoples and organizations in the region.

On December 18, 2019, the I.D.B. Board of Directors approved a draft of the Environmental and Social Policy Framework (Draft Policy). It is now available in the four official languages of the I.D.B. ([English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#), and [Portuguese](#)). In particular, the Environmental and Social Performance Standard No. 7 Indigenous Peoples of the Draft Policy specifically establishes safeguard measures aimed at preventing projects financed by the I.D.B. from adversely impacting indigenous peoples and communities in the region.

When do in-person consultations begin in the region?

As of February 2020, the I.D.B. will begin holding two-day, in-person consultations in Panama, Jamaica, Peru, Argentina, and the United States. The proposed agenda that will serve as the basis for such consultations is available [here](#). The dates of such consultations are as follows:

Date	City/Country	Region
February 18-19, 2020	Panama City, Panama	Mexico and Central America
February 27-28, 2020	Kingston, Jamaica	Caribbean
March 3-4, 2020	Lima, Peru	Andes
March 9-10, 2020	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Southern Cone
March 13, 2020	Washington, D.C., United States	North America

We were informed that the second day of each of these consultations will be dedicated to receiving inputs from the indigenous peoples and organizations of the corresponding regions. For example, the consultation on February 19, 2020, in Panama will be dedicated to the indigenous peoples and organizations of Mexico and Central America; the consultation on February 28, 2020, in Jamaica will be dedicated to the indigenous peoples and organizations of the Caribbean; the consultation on March 4, 2020, in Peru will be dedicated to the indigenous peoples and organizations of the Andean countries; and the consultation on March 10, 2020, in Argentina will be dedicated to the indigenous peoples and organizations of the Southern Cone. We were also informed that interpretation services in Quechua will be provided for the consultation in Peru on March 4, 2020.

The Indian Law Resource Center, in conjunction with the Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Amazon (AIDSESP), will hold a preparatory workshop for indigenous peoples and organizations on March 3, 2020, at AIDSESP's office, located at Av. San Eugenio 981, Santa Catalina - La Victoria. To RSVP for the preparatory meeting, please contact Leo Crippa, lcrippa@indianlaw.org.

How to participate in the I.D.B. policy review process?

There are two ways to participate in this process:

1. In-person consultations: As indicated above, the I.D.B. will begin to carry out in-person consultations on the Draft Policy on the dates mentioned above. If you are interested in participating in these consultations, please register [here](#).
2. Web-based consultations: You may also send your written comments on the Draft Policy and the Environmental and Social Performance Standard No. 7 Indigenous Peoples through the [I.D.B.'s website](#) or by sending an email to bidmpas@iadb.org. The deadline to submit comments is April 17, 2020.

Do you need more information?

For more information about our work on the I.D.B. policy review process, please visit our website: www.indianlaw.org/mdb/idb. If you would like to join our I.D.B. listserv in order to receive regular updates on the I.D.B.' policy review process, please send a request to dcoffice@indianlaw.org.

The Indian Law Resource Center is working to ensure that the shortcomings of the I.D.B.'s existing socio-environmental safeguard policies are fully addressed in the new Environmental and Social Policy Framework, that the rights of indigenous peoples are protected by strong safeguard measures, and that indigenous peoples are properly included and consulted on such policies and all development activities that could potentially affect them.