The ten Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) included in the World Bank's new Environmental and Social Framework set out the requirements that apply to borrowing countries related to the identification, assessment, and management of environmental and social risks and impacts associated with projects financed by the World Bank through Investment Project Financing (IPF).

The World Bank has developed Guidance Notes for Borrowers to help explain the requirements of the ESSs; they are not World Bank policy, nor are they mandatory.

The Guidance Notes for Borrowers were open for comment from November 2 to December 22, 2017. We received 79 submissions from 113 stakeholders. All of the comments were considered as the Guidance Notes were revised.

The Guidance Notes for Borrowers are living documents and will be reviewed and updated periodically as the World Bank learns from the implementation of the ESF. You will find below: a high-level summary of comments received during the comment period, along with World Bank responses; the revised Guidance Notes; and the comments submitted during the comment period.

High-Level Summary Response Matrix of Comments Received on the Draft Guidance Notes for Borrowers (PDF)

Guidance Notes for Borrowers:
ESS1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts (June 2018; with tracked changes)
ESS2: Labor and Working Conditions (June 2018; with tracked changes)
ESS3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management (June 2018; with tracked changes)
ESS4: Community Health and Safety (June 2018; with tracked changes)
ESS5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement (June 2018; with tracked changes)
ESS6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources (June 2018; with tracked changes)
ESS7: Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (June 2018; with tracked changes)
ESS8: Cultural Heritage (June 2018; with tracked changes)
ESS9: Financial Intermediaries (June 2018; with tracked changes)
ESS10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure (June 2018; with tracked changes)
Acronyms, abbreviations and glossary (PDF)
Guidance Note Comments submitted:

Comments from Water Governance Institute Uganda (Nov 28, 2017)
Comments from Janet Hohnen on draft Guidance Note on ESS4 (Nov 28, 2017)
Comments from Prof. Cristiano Pires on draft Guidance Notes on ESS5 and ESS6 (Nov 29, 2017)
Comments from CERFE on draft Guidance Notes on ESS1, ESS2, ESS10 (Dec 1, 2017)
Comments from 38 CSOs on draft Guidance Notes (Dec 4, 2017)
Comments from Sightsavers on draft Guidance Notes, ESS1 and ESS10 (Dec 14, 2017)
Comments from Asian Development Bank on draft Guidance Notes (Dec 22, 2017)
Comments from Bank Information Center on draft Guidance Notes (Dec 22, 2017)
Comments from Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) on draft Guidance Notes (Dec 22, 2017)
Comments from Dr. Ravi Kumar Gupta on draft Guidance notes (Dec 16, 2017)
Comments from Energy Development Corporation on draft Guidance Notes (Dec 18, 2017)
Comments from Government of Uttar Pradesh on draft Guidance Notes (Dec 20, 2017)
Comments from Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority on draft Guidance Notes (Dec 8, 2017)
Comments from Humane Society International on draft Guidance Notes (Dec 14, 2017)
Comments from John Welch on draft Guidance Notes (Dec 8, 2017)
Comments from Oréade Brèche on draft Guidance Notes (Dec 22, 2017)
Comments from Oxfam on draft Guidance Notes (Dec 21, 2017)
Comments from Government of Sweden on draft Guidance Notes (Dec 27, 2017)
Comments from Government of Italy on draft Guidance Notes on ESS1 (Dec 15, 2017)
Comments from Free the Slaves on draft Guidance Notes on ESS2 (Dec 22, 2017)
Comments from ITUC and Global Unions partner organizations on draft Guidance Notes on ESS1, ESS2, ESS10 (Dec 15, 2017)
Comments from IUCN Biodiversity Group on draft Guidance Notes on ESS1, ESS6 (Dec 22, 2017)
Comments from Government of Norway on draft Guidance Notes on ESS1, ESS6 (Dec 21, 2017)
Comments from International Center for Research on Women on draft Guidance Notes on ESS2 (Dec 13, 2017)
Comments from International Code of Conduct Association on draft Guidance Notes on ESS4 (Dec 22, 2017)

Comments from Employers and Manufactures Association New Zealand on draft Guidance Notes on ESS2, ESS4 (Dec 17, 2017)

Comments from Ayako INOUE on draft Guidance Notes on ESS3 (Dec 22, 2017)

Comments from American Anthropological Association on draft Guidance Notes on ESS5 (Dec 13, 2017)

Comments from Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment on draft Guidance Notes on ESS5 (Dec 14, 2017)

Comments from IDI and OXFAM on draft Guidance Notes on ESS5 (Dec 22, 2017)

Comments from Michael Windfuhr on draft Guidance Notes on ESS5 (Dec 27, 2017)

Comments from FAIRR Initiative on draft Guidance Notes on ESS6 (Dec 15, 2017)

Comments from World Animal Net on draft Guidance Notes on ESS6 (Dec 22, 2017)

Comments from Indian Law Resource Center on draft Guidance Notes on ESS7 (Dec 21, 2017)

Comments from Society for American Archaeology on Guidance Notes on ESS7, ESS8 (Dec 13, 2017)

Comments from IDI and 13 signatories on draft Guidance Notes on ESS9 (Dec 22, 2017)

Comments from 31 co-signatories on draft Guidance Notes on ESS1, ESS10 (Dec 22, 2017)

Comments from Geetha Rubasundram on draft Guidance Notes on ESS10 (Dec 23, 2017)

Comments from Prabhu Guptara on draft Guidance Notes on ESS10 (Dec 22, 2017)

Comments from Government of India on draft Guidance Notes (Jan 3, 2018)

Comments from National Economic Development Authority of the Philippines on draft Guidance Notes (Jan 8, 2018)

Comments from Lex Justi and Minority Rights Group International on draft Guidance Notes (Dec 15, 2017)

Comments from Dr. Filipe Silva on draft Guidance Notes on ESS4 (Dec 26, 2017)

Comments from Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers on draft Guidance Notes (Dec 15, 2017)

Comments from International Network on Displacement and Resettlement on draft Guidance Notes on ESS5 (Dec 21, 2017)
Comments from The World Archaeological Congress on draft Guidance Notes on ESS7, ESS8 (Dec 13, 2017)

Comments from Compassion in World Farming on draft Guidance Notes on ESS6 (Nov, 28, 2017)

RELATED LINKS

- Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)
- Online discussion on draft ESF Guidance Notes for Borrowers: November 28, 2017