Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)s

The Trust Fund for Environmentally & Socially Sustainable Development (TFESSD) FAQs

1. Did TFESSD finance Word Bank Group staff time and travel?
   Yes. In February 2011, the legal agreement for TFESSD was amended to permit WBG staff time and travel for up to 20% of approved grants. However, the donors wished to maintain the distinction between trust funded work and Bank’s own work and assessed whether the financing for staff time and travel increased staff involvement and enhanced quality of outputs.

   Consultants’ costs were eligible for TFESSD funding all along and did not have to be counted toward the 20% for staff time and travel. Consultants’ costs were therefore charged to the existing grants.

2. Which countries were supported by TFESSD?
   TFESSD supported work in low and lower middle income countries. Work in upper middle income countries such as Brazil and South Africa were not eligible. We used the OECD-DAC country list. For further questions contact the TFESSD Program Manager.

3. Was a country director clearance needed?
   Yes, teams were asked to always clear field work and country based activities with the country director. This ensured activities fit with the country program and avoided surprises later. For global and regional proposals we accepted sector director clearance at time of submitting the full proposal but we still asked that you cleared with the country director before you visited the country.

4. How were the donors acknowledged in my outputs?
   Acknowledgement were included to the effect that “this work benefited from support from the Trust Fund for Environmentally & Socially Sustainable Development (TFESSD) made available by the governments of Finland and Norway”.

5. How were staff time and travel to TFESSD grants charged?
   Effective February 1, 2011 TTLs were able to charge staff time and travel directly to their TFESSD grants up to a cap of 20% of the total undisbursed balance (for ongoing grants) or the approved amount (for new grants approved after February 1, 2011).
TTLs needed to work with their Resource Management staff to ensure they did not exceed the cap. Charges exceeding the 20% were reposted to the BB of the TTLs unit.

6. Can I set up a new TFESSD grant in the system?

No. TFESSD has now phased out its activities.