Republic of India

Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project

REDACTED REPORT

December 2014
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Executive Summary

This report provides the findings of an administrative inquiry (the investigation) by the World Bank Group’s Integrity Vice Presidency (INT) into allegations that Contractor A may have engaged in fraudulent practices in connection with the bidding process under the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (the Project) in the Republic of India.

INT’s investigation found evidence indicating that Contractor A submitted false experience certificates with its bid for a contract under the Project. Specifically, in an attempt to satisfy the requirements of the bidding documents, Contractor A submitted two prior experience certificates, purportedly issued by Company B. However, during its interview with INT, Company B informed INT that Company B had not issued the certificates.

The World Bank imposed a sanction of debarment with conditional release on Contractor A in relation to the alleged misconduct. This sanction extends to any legal entity Contractor A directly or indirectly controls.
Background

The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (the Project) in the Republic of India aims to assist the Government of India in building national capacity for implementation of a comprehensive coastal management approach in the country, and piloting the integrated coastal zone management approach in several states throughout the country. Contractor A submitted a bid for a contract under the Project (the Contract).

Allegations

INT received a complaint alleging that Contractor A included false experience certificates in its bid for the Contract.

Methodology

INT’s investigation consisted of a review of Project documents as well as documents and statements obtained from Company B, the purported issuer of Contractor A’s certificates.

Findings

INT found evidence indicating that Contractor A submitted false experience certificates with its bid for the Contract.

The bidding documents for the Contract required that bidders demonstrate satisfactory completion of at least one similar work as a prime contractor or a subcontractor in the previous five years.

In response to the requirement, Contractor A submitted two certificates. The first certificate, purportedly issued by Company B, represented that Contractor C had satisfactorily executed a contract involving a bridge construction (the Bridge Contract). The second certificate, purportedly issued by Contractor C represented that Contractor A had successfully executed the Bridge Contract as a subcontractor for Contractor C.

During the bid evaluation process, Project officials contacted Company B to verify the authenticity of the certificates submitted by Contractor A. Company B informed Project officials that Company B had not executed the Bridge Contract and Contractor C had not executed any other contract in connection with Company B in the previous five years. During its interview with INT, Company B confirmed this statement to INT.

Follow Up Action by the World Bank

The World Bank imposed a sanction of debarment with conditional release on Contractor A in relation to the alleged misconduct. This sanction extends to any legal entity Contractor A directly or indirectly controls.