

Examples of Weasel Words found in the Draft World Bank Safeguards – July 10, 2014 version

Weasel words	Citation	Implications	Notes	Section or ESS#	page	paragraph
"in a manner and within a timeframe acceptable to the Bank"	Scope of Application: This Policy applies to all projects supported by the Bank through Investment Project Financing. ³⁰ The Bank will only support projects that are consistent with, and within the boundaries of its Articles of Agreement and are expected to meet the requirements of the ESSs in a manner and within a timeframe acceptable to the Bank.	Open-ended deferral of compliance with safeguards "in a manner & within a timeframe acceptable to the Bank"; no mandatory safeguards; just safeguards decided up on in a piecemeal manner;	"acceptable to the Bank" occurs at least 11 times in the text	WB E&S Policy: Scope of Application	10	7
"expected to meet the requirements"	ibid.	Projects are not required to meet safeguards requirements prior to approval;		WB E&S Policy: Scope of Application	10	7
"where appropriate"	In assessing, developing and implementing a project supported by Investment Project Financing, the Borrower may, where appropriate, agree with the Bank to use all or part of the Borrower's national environmental and social framework to address the risks and impacts of the project, providing such use will enable the project to achieve objectives consistent with the ESSs.	Deferred compliance with safeguards and deferred responsibility of Bank by allowing Borrower to use "all or part" of national environmental and social framework to address risks and impacts of the project.		ESS1	20	4

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"disproportionately"	In risk assessment, the Bank will take into account.. "Social risks and impacts, including: (i) threats to human security through the escalation of personal, communal or inter-state conflict, crime or violence; (ii) risks that project impacts fall disproportionately on disadvantaged or vulnerable groups;				8	4
"will consider alternatives"	5. In addition to the resource efficiency measures described above, the Borrower will consider alternatives and implement technically and financially feasible and cost-effective options to reduce project-related GHG emissions during the design and operation of the project.	No mandatory requirement to propose alternative project or best available technology regarding project activities.		ESS3	39	5
"where technically and financially feasible"	For projects that are expected to or currently produce more than 25,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent annually, the Borrower will, where technically and financially feasible, quantify direct emissions from the facilities owned or controlled within the physical project boundary, as well as indirect emissions associated with off-site production of energy used by the project. Quantification of GHG emissions will be conducted by the Borrower annually in	No mandatory requirement to monitor or report direct emissions from project facilities.	Suppliers of fossil fuels or industrial GHGs, manufacturers or vehicles and engines, and facilities that emit 25,000 metric tons or more per year of GHGs are required to submit annual reports to USEPA beginning in the year 2011. USEPA estimates that approximately 10,000 facilities will be	ESS3	39	6

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	accordance with internationally recognized methodologies and good practice.		covered by the rule and that these facilities account for around 85% of GHG emissions in the United States. (2011)			
"where applicable"	Decision-making processes related to resettlement and livelihood restoration will include options and alternatives from which affected persons may choose, where applicable. (para 14)			ESS5		
"in a manner that is consistent with the objectives"	Implementation of the Borrower's plan will be considered completed when the adverse impacts of resettlement have been addressed in a manner that is consistent with the objectives of this ESS. (para 20)			ESS5		
"as warranted"	The plan will be designed to mitigate the negative impacts of displacement and, as warranted, to identify development opportunities. (para 22).			ESS5		
"taken into consideration"	The displaced persons' preferences with respect to relocating in preexisting communities and groups will be taken into consideration. (para 23)			ESS5		
"where possible"	Where livelihoods of displaced persons are derived primarily from land, compensation in kind will, where possible, be considered in lieu of cash. (para 24)			ESS5		
"allow them to obtain adequate"	In the case of physically displaced persons under paragraph 6(c), the Borrower will provide arrangements to allow them to obtain adequate housing with security of tenure.			ESS5		

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	(para 25)					
"allow affected persons to improve"	In the case of projects affecting livelihoods or income generation, the Borrower's plan will include measures to allow affected persons to improve, or at least restore, their incomes or livelihoods. (para 29)			ESS5		
"adequate opportunity"	The mitigation of economic displacement will be considered complete when the completion audit concludes that affected persons or communities have received all of the assistance for which they are eligible, and have been provided with adequate opportunity to reestablish their livelihoods. (para 29)			ESS5		
"If necessary, assistance"	Affected employees will receive assistance for temporary loss of wages and, if necessary, assistance in identifying alternative employment opportunities. (para 30(a)).			ESS5		
"where appropriate"	In cases affecting persons with legal rights or claims to land that are recognized or recognizable under national law (see paragraph 6(a) and (b)), replacement property (e.g., agricultural or commercial sites) of equal or greater value will be provided, or, where appropriate, cash compensation at replacement cost; (para 30(b)).			ESS5		
"sufficient to provide such persons with an opportunity to reestablish livelihoods elsewhere"	Economically displaced persons who are without legally recognizable claims to land (see paragraph 6(c)) will be compensated for lost assets other than land (such as crops, irrigation infrastructure and other improvements made to the land), at replacement cost. Additionally, the Borrower			ESS5		

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	will provide assistance in lieu of land compensation sufficient to provide such persons with an opportunity to reestablish livelihoods elsewhere. (para 30(c))					
"where feasible", "where...not possible"	For persons whose livelihoods are land-based, replacement land that has a combination of productive potential, locational advantages, and other factors at least equivalent to that being lost will be offered where feasible. Where provision of suitable replacement land is not possible, economically displaced persons will be compensated at replacement cost for land (and other lost assets). (para 31(a)).			ESS5		
"as necessary", "reasonable"	Transitional support will be provided as necessary to all economically displaced persons, based on a reasonable estimate of the time required to restore their income-earning capacity, production levels, and standards of living. (para 32).			ESS5		