

WEBINAR

Stakeholder engagement in sustainable finance: Indigenous Peoples Rights and the Free, Prior and Informed Consent

Tuesday 5th December, 16.00 – 17.30 CET

Since the adoption of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) in 2011, financial institutions have increasingly recognized and owned their ‘responsibility to respect human rights’, developing human rights due diligence processes or strengthening internal risk management frameworks to address social risks. At the same time, more and more financial institutions commit to the global vision of sustainable development offered by the Sustainable Development Goals, by tackling social issues such as climate justice, gender inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups.

Despite this progress, indigenous peoples’ rights – which lie at the crossroads between development needs and international human rights norms – remain a burning topic on the finance and human rights agenda. Ten years on since the adoption of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, obtaining the free, prior and informed consent of affected communities and groups in the development of business projects is a particularly challenging endeavour. This challenge has a direct impact on the right-holders but also on financial institutions involved in the financing of activities that affect indigenous peoples and communities.

The webinar, organized jointly by Agence française de développement, the Inter-American Development Bank and UNEP Finance Initiative, will take a glimpse into the current landscape of standards and practices related to indigenous peoples’ rights and stakeholder engagement, with a focus on the free, prior and informed consent principle. It will also consider barriers to the principle implementation and solutions to address them. It will be set up as a platform of knowledge exchange between industry representatives and human rights experts working with indigenous groups and on stakeholder engagement in business.

Agenda topics

- ✓ What are the current standards and expectations related to the implementation of free, prior and informed consent as part of a legitimate and effective stakeholder engagement process in finance?
- ✓ Where do we stand on their implementation at global level, from a right-holder perspective, and, in particular, indigenous peoples rights?
- ✓ How does stakeholder engagement, with a focus on the implementation of free, prior and informed consent, sit in the priorities, culture and practice of development financial institutions?
- ✓ How do private financial institutions embed the free, prior and informed consent principle in their internal due diligence process? What are the challenges to be addressed to both develop and scale good practice?

Speakers

- Ariel Meyerstein, Senior Vice President, Corporate Sustainability Program Citi, U.S.
- Alfred Netch, Head, Environmental, Health and Safety, International Development Corporation, South Africa
- Emmanuelle Bru, Manager, Stakeholder Dialogue and Human Rights, BNP Paribas, France
- Hector Peña, Executive Director, Programs and Products; and Karely Guzmán Soto, Lead, Financing Strategies for Carbon Reduction in Forest Areas, Financiera Nacional de Desarrollo, Mexico
- Juan Antonio Martínez Legaria, Social Practice Leader, Environmental and Social Unit, Inter-American Development Bank
- Linda Zanfini, Corporate Social Responsibility Unit, Agence Française de Développement
- Sabina Timco Iacazzi, Human Rights and Social Issues Lead, UNEP FI (moderator)



Ariel Meyerstein

Senior Vice President, Corporate Sustainability Program Citi, U.S.

Dr. Meyerstein works in Citi's Sustainability team, helping to lead the development of policy frameworks and risk management approaches to human rights and sustainability issues. Prior to joining Citi, Meyerstein led multilateral organization policy engagement on human rights, labor affairs, sustainable development and corporate governance for the United States Council for International Business, an association of Fortune 500 U.S. businesses. Prior to USCIB, Meyerstein spent several years developing expertise in international dispute resolution while working for global law firms and in international courts and tribunals. Meyerstein is a published author and frequently invited speaker on business and human rights issues, including its intersection with project finance, and teaches business and human rights as an adjunct professor at Fordham University School of Law. He received his law degree and PhD in Jurisprudence & Social Policy from the University of California, Berkeley. He has a B.A. from Columbia University in English & Comparative Literature with a concentration in Human Rights.

Alfred Netch

Head, Environmental, Health and Safety, International Development Corporation, South Africa



Alfred Netch is specialized in environmental, health and safety risk management for insuring that developments impacts are minimized as far as global warming and climate change is concerned, project management, strategic environmental management, mine environment costing/accounting and rehabilitation, and water and waste management. Prior to joining IDC in 2005 to focus on Environment, Health and Safety in the Risk Management Department, Alfred managed environmental projects at Eksom, and was conducting research for the University of Cape Town and the University of Natal in South Africa, as well as Auburn University in the USA. Alfred holds a Master of Science of the Auburn University and a Bachelor of Science from the University of the North, Sovenga, South Africa.

Emmanuelle Bru

Manager Stakeholder Dialogue and Human Rights, BNP Paribas, France



A graduate of École Supérieure de Commerce, Emmanuelle is specialized in strategic management of sustainable development. Having more than ten years of experience in this field, with a focus on the banking and insurance sectors, she has been responsible since 2011 for Stakeholder Dialogue at BNP Paribas.

Hector Peña

Executive Director, Programs and Products, Financiera Nacional de Desarrollo, Mexico



Hector is a graduate of the Technological Institute of Mexico and holds a Master in Economics from the University of Essex in the UK. Hector has held positions in the National Bank of Mexico, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank and currently serves as Executive Director of Programs and Products in National Agricultural, Rural, Forestry and Fisheries Development at FND Mexico.

**Juan Antonio Martinez Legaria**

Social Practice Leader, Environmental and Social Unit, Inter-American Development Bank

Juan Martinez is the Social Practice Leader at the Environmental and Social Unit of the Inter-American Development Bank where he is leading the social sustainability safeguards for projects and programs that the IDB finances. Juan Martinez has worked in multiple regions of the world, including East Asia and the Pacific, South Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, in which he has led the practical implementation of sustainable social safeguards for multiple sectors, including Infrastructure, Energy, Human Development, and Natural Resources Management; he has also led the operational application of social safeguards advising task teams, managers and government counterparts. Juan Martinez has extensive experience working with indigenous peoples in several areas related to land and customary rights, community forestry and natural resources management.

**Karely Guzmán Soto**

Lead, Financing Strategies for Carbon Reduction in Forest Areas, Financiera Nacional de Desarrollo, Mexico

Karely leads the Financing Program for Carbon Reduction Strategies in the field of Forest Areas of the National Agricultural, Rural, Forestry and Fisheries Development at FND Mexico.

**Linda Zanfini**

Corporate Social Responsibility Unit, Agence Française de Développement

Linda Zanfini is the Corporate social responsibility officer at the Strategy, partnerships and communication direction of the French Agency for Development (AFD), where she is in charge of coordinating the CSR approach for the AFD Group. Before joining the AFD, Linda Zanfini had worked as policy advisor in charge of development finance and aid effectiveness at the French Ministry of foreign affairs, and as independent evaluator of development policies and programs. As a part time lecturer at the Université Paris Sud, she has also taught evaluation methodology and practices in development processes. Linda Zanfini received a PhD in Development Economics at the Université Paris Ouest – Nanterre la Défense; her research focused on labour mobility and migrations in Madagascar and Mauritius.

Sabina Timco Iacazzi

Human Rights and Social Issues Lead, United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative



Sabina has more than ten years' experience in sustainable business development and human rights with the United Nations and civil society. She is responsible today for developing and implementing UNEP FI's strategy on finance and human rights, and wider social issues. Prior to joining UNEP FI in 2012, she worked on technical assistance projects for capacity-building, policy development and stakeholder engagement at the International Trade Centre and the United Nations Children's Fund. She was also in charge of the thematic programme planning at the Geneva-based International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights. Sabina holds an advanced Master's degree in international law from University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. She also holds a UN-mandated University for Peace diploma in Indigenous Peoples Rights.