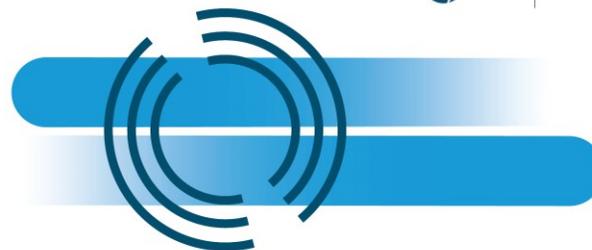




Access to  
information policy



IDB Invest

## IDB INVEST CONSULTATIONS REGARDING ITS DRAFT ACCESS TO INFORMATION POLICY:

### MEETINGS IN PANAMA – JULY 5/6, 2018

SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDERS' COMMENTS

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Following from the Consultation Plan, a face-to-face consultation was held in Panama City July 5-6, 2018. Of the total 47 participants who attended, roughly half (14 women and 10 men) represented the public and private sectors. The remaining 23 participants represented civil society (15 women and 8 men).

#### II. STATISTICS

Figure 1: Panama Workshops  
By Type of Attendee

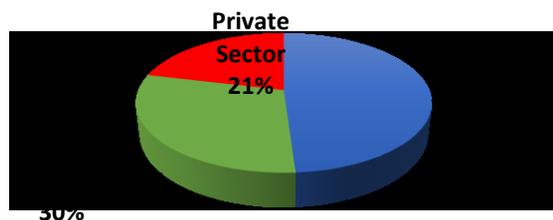
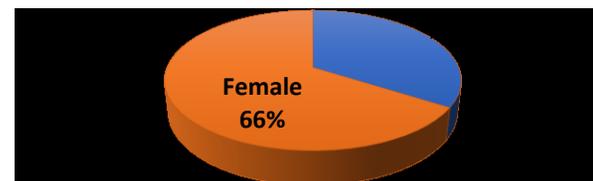


Figure 2: Panama Workshops  
% Male/Female





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### III. SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

**NOTE:** Comments were received from representatives of civil society, and the public and private sectors, as summarized below. These comments do not necessarily reflect consensus among participants but rather demonstrate the array of opinions on key issues of interest that were voiced by representatives of these groups.

#### QUESTION #1: WHAT TYPES OF INFORMATION ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

##### A1. Before Project Approval

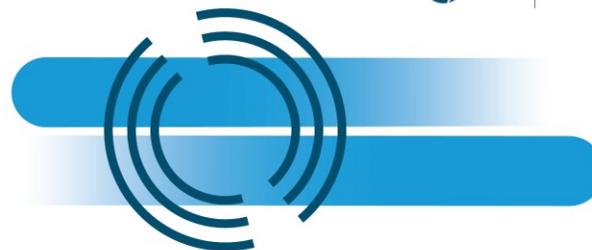
Issue Areas Identified	Stakeholder Comments
<b>1. Enhancement of transparency</b>	<p><b>Civil society representatives</b> stressed that information, in order to be transparent, needs to encompass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How IDB Invest makes decisions and how the decision was made to approve a project;</li> <li>• Information <b>about the project</b> (e.g., reasons for the project; identification of owners of the project and their history; financing arrangements and project budgets/costs; etc.);</li> <li>• Stakeholder mapping;</li> <li>• Verification by IDB Invest that the information being disclosed is <b>accurate and true</b>;</li> <li>• An evaluation of impacts by an independent consultant/third party.</li> </ul> <p><b>Public/private sector participants</b> similarly expressed that information, in order to be transparent, needs to encompass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Information about the project</b> (e.g., the track record of the private sector developer; cash flow as the project proceeds; any negative information that is known);</li> <li>• <b>Updates</b> on country risks.</li> </ul>

**A2. After Approval/During Project Implementation**

<b>2. Monitoring and evaluation</b>	<p><b>Civil society participants</b> stressed the need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disclosure of <b>checklists to enable them to track the fulfilment of private sector obligations</b> (e.g., indicators of social, environmental, worker safety-related and economic impacts);</li><li>• More <b>frequent monitoring and evaluation</b>, not only annually but every two to six months;</li><li>• Disclosure of <b>how impacts will be mitigated</b>, including definition of responsibility for non-compliance and disaster management;</li><li>• Flash alerts should the developer deviate from its stated plan.</li></ul> <p><b>The public/private sector</b> participants also discussed the need for <b>monitoring and evaluation</b> throughout a project, to be performed by <b>independent sources</b>.</p>
<p><b>QUESTION # 2: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE PROPOSED EXCEPTIONS TO DISCLOSURE?</b></p>	
<b>3. Clarity regarding exceptions</b>	<p><b>Private sector representatives</b> expressed a need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Precise clarification of exceptions to disclosure, and <b>clear definition of the term “exceptions”</b>, both to be posted on the IDB Invest web site;</li><li>• Clarification of how much leeway an IDB Invest <b>client will have to decide what is or what is not confidential</b>, and whether this is ultimately up to the client.</li></ul>
<b>4. Ownership</b>	<p><b>Civil society representatives</b> stated that IDB Invest needs to work to <b>identify real owners</b> and determine if they include politically exposed persons.</p>



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### QUESTION # 3: WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR ACCESSIBILITY TO THE INFORMATION THAT IS DISCLOSED?

#### 5. Proactive delivery of comprehensive information directly to affected communities using diverse mechanisms

**Civil society meeting participants** stressed that disclosure is not enough and emphasized that information is often too top-down and centralized, or only provided at the regional level. It was noted that IDB Invest and its clients need to **be proactive** and take extra measures to **ensure that exhaustive and comprehensive information reaches those who stand to be most affected**. Information needs to be delivered directly at the community level to enable *feedback and input* from affected parties.

Indigenous representatives who participated in the discussions further emphasized that information should:

- Be delivered to local leaders and disseminated *within/throughout* their communities **in their own languages**, and among women/youth/local organizations;
- Be provided in **non-technical terms**, using **radio** programming, **graphics, video** and other delivery vehicles other than the web, which many do not have access to;
- Communicated in a **timely manner**, so that communities can respond.
- Include community **workshops**;
- Include **training** to assist with the use of information;
- Include a site on IDB Invest's webpage where people can comment, and all site visitors can see the comments;
- Possibly include the establishment of **a local project office** (ideally employing local people) so that information can be made available immediately;
- Employ **social media** to disseminate information immediately.

**Public sector representatives** noted that it is sometimes difficult to find information, and that access to information needs to be more **user-friendly**. They emphasized the need for:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A specific <b>contact person</b> who could be identified within IDB Invest for direct contact by its clients. It was noted that considerable time can be wasted being transferred from one office to another when trying to access information;</li> <li>• A <b>time limit within which a reply to a request for information</b> (e.g., financial or institutional) will be fulfilled (e.g., three days);</li> <li>• A simple <b>internal search engine</b> to make it easy to search IDB Invest’s website;</li> <li>• Targeted/well-categorized information, rather than an overload of diverse information;</li> <li>• Several paths to access information and provide updates (e.g., website; mobile app, social media).</li> </ul>
<p><b>QUESTION #4: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE PROPOSED MECHANISM FOR REQUESTING INFORMATION?</b></p>	
<p><b>6. Clarification of the Panel and Response Times</b></p>	<p><b>A civil society representative</b> asked <b>how the independent will panel work</b>.  There were some suggestions that thirty days for a response is too long if there is a notable emergency (e.g., an environmental emergency that demands immediate information, and action).</p>