

Via electronic email

San Rafael, November 25, 2024

Board of Directors
World Bank Group
1818 H Street,
NW Washington, D.C. 20433

RE: The Chiquitano Indigenous Communities' Concerns and Recommendations Regarding the Approved Management Action Plan to Address the Findings of the Inspection Panel Investigation Report No. 187506-BO

Dear Board of Directors,

Greetings from the Association of Cabildos of San Ignacio de Velasco (ACISIV), the Central of Indigenous Communities of San Miguel (CCISM), the Association of Indigenous Communities of San Rafael de Velasco (ACISARV), and the Central of Indigenous Communities of Chiquitos TURUBO. Our organizations represent Indigenous communities affected by the World Bank San José-San Ignacio road upgrade project. We want to express our deep concern and dissatisfaction with the implementation of the Management Action Plan (MAP), which was developed to respond to the findings of the Inspection Panel report. Throughout this process, the World Bank has acted irresponsibly and failed to uphold its commitments to consultation, accountability, and remedy toward our communities.

Below, we detail the most serious issues we have identified concerning the MAP:

1. **Disregard for the findings of the Inspection Panel's investigation:** The MAP ignores key findings of the Panel's report, including failing to consider measures to remedy the damages caused by the right-of-way and resettlement. This omission is unacceptable and demonstrates a lack of understanding of the harm the project has caused our communities.
2. **Unilateral preparation and lack of proper consultation:** The process of drafting the MAP was carried out without proper consultation or active participation from Indigenous communities. The World Bank administration unilaterally formulated the MAP and later came to Bolivia to present it to us. During that meeting, World Bank management informed us that the space "was not a negotiation" and that they "did not necessarily agree with all the Panel's findings." We provided feedback with recommendations to the MAP presented but have not received any updates or reply from the Bank.
3. **Lack of dissemination of the approved Action Plan to Indigenous leaders:** After the MAP was approved, the actions outlined and the agreed-upon schedule were not communicated to Indigenous leaders. This lack of transparency infringes on our right to oversee and contribute to the MAP implementation.
4. **Failure to adhere to the implementation schedule:** Of all the activities planned in the MAP, 90% have not happened, despite the October 2024 deadline.

5. **Communities are unaware of any actions taken to implement the MAP:** To date, neither the leaders nor the affected Indigenous families have evidence of any actions taken on the ground to implement the MAP.

Based on the above, we demand the following from the World Bank:

1. **Immediate dissemination of the MAP among Indigenous families:** The World Bank must inform and communicate to Indigenous communities the actions contained in the MAP and the dates when personnel are expected to be on the ground to implement them.
2. **Full implementation of the MAP:** The World Bank must effectively implement all the measures outlined in the MAP to mitigate impacts and address the harm caused to our communities.
3. **Indigenous communities actively participate in implementing the MAP:** We call on the inclusion of Indigenous communities in MAP implementation plans, particularly regarding actions required to repair the atajados (artificial ponds that provide drinking water for humans and animals) and address the problems with the borrow pits.
4. **Respect for our rights and way of life during the implementation of the MAP:** We demand that the World Bank commit to ensuring the protection of our fundamental rights as Indigenous peoples, which are the most sacred elements of our identity.

The World Bank's inaction and non-compliance have exacerbated the physical, social, and emotional harm and undermined our confidence in the institution. It is time for the Bank to urgently take responsibility, not only as an implementer of the MAP, but also as the guarantor of the rights of Indigenous peoples and the sustainable development it claims to promote.

We are not secondary actors in this story. This project has directly impacted our existence as Indigenous Peoples. We demand to be treated with the respect and consideration we deserve as Indigenous Peoples.

Sincerely,

Fernando Rojas Noca
Fernando Rojas Noca
GRAN CACIQUE
ACISIV

Sra. Zora Taborga Justiniano
Sra. Zora Taborga Justiniano
VICE PRESIDENTA
CCICH - TURUBO
San José de Chiquitos - Santa Cruz - Bolivia



Juho José Eguez Aguirre
Juho José Eguez Aguirre
C.I. 3904900 SC.
GRAN CACIQUE
ACISARV



Juan Candido Casupa Surubi
Juan Candido Casupa Surubi
PRESIDENTE
CCISM