

Dear President Jim Yong Kim and the Executive Directors to the Board of the World Bank.

We welcome the board decision and the fact that the World Bank President is going to start the colloquium himself with President Uhuru Kenyatta. This is very positive and we hope that management especially in the country level will give it this kind of seriousness.

We have shared our proposals which results in a win-win solution and makes sure communities regain rights to their lands and at the same time be custodians of the said forests. This is the new conservation paradigm that is increasingly being adopted.

In the case of Kenya, the foundation for adopting this model is laid by the constitution and the legal infrastructure to make this happen is being developed. The tackling of the historical land injustices is ongoing though a task force appointed by the National Land Commission and the Forest Act 2005 is currently undergoing review. It is upon this that the World Bank Country office should seize the opportunity and be part of the process without being "bystanders" as they have been so far. As the Forest Indigenous communities, we are willing to be fully supportive of such initiatives including in piloting of such initiatives in areas we have suggested with the support of World Bank.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Kitelo,
Kenya Forest Indigenous Peoples Network (FIPN)
On behalf of the requesters, the Sengwer indigenous people