

World Bank

New Environment Plan

The Board of the World Bank has announced a new environment strategy aimed at further integrating environmental concerns into the Bank's projects and programmes.

The Strategy is the result of two years of stakeholder consultations, and will seek to ensure that economic growth does not come at the cost of human health and future opportunities.

The new Strategy emphasises improving quality of life and growth in developing countries through supporting sustainable environmental management, and protecting the quality of regional and global commons, such as climate,

forests and water resources. Efforts will be tailored to each developing country's needs and capacities.

In announcing the Strategy, the Vice President of the Bank's environmentally and socially sustainable development network noted that developing countries are showing a growing interest in the effects that pollution and declining natural resources have on health and growth prospects. According to the Bank, 5-6 million people in developing countries die annually from waterborne diseases and air pollution, while the economic costs of declining natural resources range from 4-8 per cent of annual gross domestic product. (MJ)

