

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Jonathan Sohn is a Senior Associate in the Institutions and Governance Program and leads WRI's Financial Flows Objective. He works with commercial banks and public financial institutions to identify environmental and social risks and opportunities. Jon's career has focused on the environmental policies and risk management practices of financial institutions, with an emphasis on energy and climate change. His experience includes monitoring project finance deals in developing countries in the power and extractive industries sector, working with renewable energy companies for clean energy funding mechanisms and advocacy before the OECD, US government and a number of international financial institutions. Prior to working in the environmental NGO community, Jon was the Counsel and Environment/Labor Program Officer for the United States Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). His work with OPIC involved the establishment of environmental policies in consultation with industry and non-governmental organizations.

Steven Herz is a lawyer and independent consultant who advises civil society organizations on the environmental and social standards of international financial institutions, international environmental and human rights law, and sustainable development policy. Mr. Herz's recent publications include an analysis of the environmental and social policies of private-sector banks, an assessment of public participation in World Bank decision-making, and a critique of the Asia Development Bank's anti-corruption policy and its implementation. Mr. Herz previously worked as an international policy analyst at Friends of the Earth. He can be reached at steve.herz@sbcglobal.net

Antonio LaViña is Dean of the Ateneo School of Government in the Philippines and Country Representative of Ashoka: Innovators for the Public. Previously, Mr. LaViña spent seven years as Senior Fellow and Director of the Biological Resources Program (now People and Ecosystems Program) at WRI. An environmental and human rights lawyer with a focus on governance, Tony led WRI's work on trade and agriculture, the impact of globalization on poor communities, genetic engineering and bio-safety, and environmental governance in Southeast Asia and China. Before joining WRI in 1998, Tony was an Environment Undersecretary of the Philippines, playing a critical role in getting the Philippines to recognize the land and ancestral domain rights of indigenous peoples and developing the concept of "social acceptability" as integral to environmental impact assessment. Tony was also Chief Negotiator for the Philippines in the implementation of the Conventions on Biological Diversity and Climate Change from 1996-1998 and was a key participant and spokesperson for developing countries in the negotiation of the Kyoto and Cartagena Protocols. Tony obtained his LLM and JSD from Yale Law School and his first degrees from universities in the Philippines. In 1988, straight from law school, he co-founded the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center-Friends of the Earth Philippines, where he worked for seven years.

ABOUT WRI

The World Resources Institute is an environmental think tank that goes beyond research to create practical ways to protect the Earth and improve people's lives. Our mission is to move human society to live in ways that protect Earth's environment for current and future generations. Our program meets global challenges by using knowledge to catalyze public and private action:

- To reverse damage to ecosystems. We protect the capacity of ecosystems to sustain life and prosperity.
- To expand participation in environmental decisions. We collaborate with partners worldwide to increase people's access to information and influence over decisions about natural resources.
- To avert dangerous climate change. We promote public and private action to ensure a safe climate and sound world economy.
- To increase prosperity while improving the environment. We challenge the private sector to grow by improving environmental and community well-being.

In all of its policy research and work with institutions, WRI tries to build bridges between ideas and actions, meshing the insights of scientific research, economic and institutional analyses, and practical experience with the need for open and participatory decision-making.

THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FLOWS AND THE ENVIRONMENT PROJECT

WRI's International Financial Flows and the Environment (IFFE) project works to align public and private investment with sustainable development that results in positive outcomes on the ground.

IFFE influences upstream decision-making in order to enable change downstream at the project and community levels. The project concentrates on both public and private finance.

Our research, analysis, and engagement strategies target a subset of international financial institutions including Export Credit and Guarantee Agencies (ECAs), Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), and private Equator Principle Banks that have agreed to apply social and environmental safeguards to project finance.

We focus our efforts on banks that shape international environmental and social policies and norms for finance, trade, and investment because these institutions set the conditions for private sector investment.