World Bank Project Cycle

The recipient country proposes an idea for a project or program and signals the need for funds. The recipient and WB (often the country office) then discuss and design the project. It is important to be well connected to the World Bank country offices as external consultants are often needed in the design phase of a project, along with technical expertise, knowledge, and innovations brought in from the WB office in Washington, DC.

Once the Board approves a project, the recipient receives the funds and has to prepare the implementation. The recipient then publishes the tenders, and selects the winner to execute the project.

To increase your chances of success with the World Bank it is important to not only reply to tender notices, but to also start a dialogue with the World Bank country office early on in the project cycle.

Country Assistance Strategy (CAS): The CAS takes as its starting point the country’s own vision for its development and is developed in consultation with country authorities, civil society organizations, development partners, and other stakeholders. The aim is to set out a selective program of support based on the WBG’s comparative advantage and in collaboration and coordination with other donors.

Project Identification: Ideas for creating meaningful change are discussed. Borrower and Bank weigh development objectives and project impacts, risks, alternatives, and timetable.

Project Preparation: The borrower conducts studies and prepares detailed project documentation.

Project Review: The WBG assesses the economic, technical, institutional, financial, environmental and social aspects of the project and proposes changes and additions.

Loan Negotiation: The borrower and WBG agree on the terms of a loan or credit, such as timeframe for repayment and interest rate.

Loan approval: The project is presented to the WB Board of Directors for approval.
Implementation: The borrower receives the funds and implements the project, issuing contracts through a competitive bidding process.

Project Oversight: WBG staff periodically supervises the project to ensure that funds are used for the intended purposes.

Evaluation: A completion report identifies project results, problems, and lessons learned. The WBG Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) measures the outcomes against original objectives and whether the results are sustainable.

'Go local' to boost success-rate! Building a relationship with the World Bank country office will get you involved at an earlier stage in the project, thereby increasing your chances of winning tenders.

Contact the World Bank Group liaisons in Washington, DC for tips and introductions:

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