
The objective of the validation is to provide an independent review of the self-evaluation conducted by the RISP West Africa team in terms of achievement of intended objectives. The validation will also assess the overall quality of the Completion Report (CR). The validation will verify the credibility, robustness and extensiveness of the evidence supporting the self-assessment as well as the overall quality of the RISP completion report. The validation will draw lessons based on the evidence available.

The Bank’s 2011-2015 Regional Integration Strategy was approved in 2011, to contribute to advancing the integration agenda for West Africa region and facilitate regional solutions to common challenges. The RISP focused on two pillars:

- Linking regional markets: under this pillar, the Bank provided support to transport corridors, roads, energy as well as agriculture and private sector.
- Building capacity to support effective implementation of the regional integration agenda: under this pillar, the Bank provided capacity building to specific project needs, regional centers of excellence as well as to the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) – West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

The RISP was reviewed at mid-term and extended to cover 2017 for a number of reasons. First, to synchronize the Bank’s strategy with the preparation and launching of the new ECOWAS strategic plan 2016-2020; secondly, to allow the Bank to finalize the preparation of the new format, guidelines and templates of future RISPs; and finally to provide sufficient time for the preparation of the RISP 2019-2025.

The validation is a desk review that will cover to the extent possible and based on available evidence and documentation, the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the RISP implementation. It will assess whether the evidence provided is sufficient to support the assessment of each of these elements in the CR. It will look at the overall quality of the RISP completion report. It will also provide inputs that will contribute to improving the quality of future CRs.

Based on a rating criteria discussed and agreed with the RISP team, the validation will attribute a rating to the overall completion report. The validation started in February and expected to be completed by mid-April. It will be shared for information to the Board of Directors for the presentation of the RISP completion report as well as the pillars for the next RISP 2019-2023 at the end of April.