

POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

Poverty reduction through sound environmental management

What is the Poverty and Environment Program?

The Poverty and Environment Program (PEP) is a regional technical assistance program aimed at accelerating learning about poverty-environment linkages and effective approaches for poverty reduction. PEP is developing a fast-growing knowledge base that draws lessons learned from replicable and self-sustaining interventions that are implemented by ADB and its development partners in the Asia and Pacific region and globally.

The focal areas are

- protection, conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystem services to sustain the poor's livelihood;
- reduction of air and water pollution and wastes that adversely affect the poor's health and productivity; and
- decreased vulnerability of the poor to natural hazards and disaster prevention.

PEP is cofinanced by the Poverty and Environment Fund, through the contributions of the Governments of Norway and Sweden, and the ADB's technical assistance funding program.

ADB seeks to collaborate with other development partners in sharing lessons and experiences. It encourages informal exchange and collaboration with all potentially interested poverty and environment stakeholders. PEP is being implemented from 2004–2008.

Capturing and disseminating knowledge

PEP is systematically collecting and assessing knowledge on poverty-environment relationships culled from experiences of the program, ADB, and other organizations. By effectively disseminating this information, PEP aims to increase awareness and encourage application of sound environmental and poverty reduction approaches while strengthening collaboration with developing member countries (DMCs), nongovernment organizations (NGOs), and other funding agencies.

Eric Sales



Pollution and wastes adversely affect the health of the poor



Eric Sales

Sustainable livelihood options can promote the well-being of the poor

Collection of Best Practices

The Poverty and Environment Program (PEP) is collecting best practices in addressing environmental dimensions of poverty. International or national organizations, nongovernment organizations, academic and research institutions, and other organizations are invited to share innovative project experiences.

These will be made available to ADB and external organizations through www.adb.org/projects/pep and other electronic-based means of communications.

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Specifically, information is collected to improve understanding of the relationships between poverty and the environment; and enhance the ability to effectively design responses when such linkages are identified.

While capturing knowledge on poverty-environment relationships from experiences of past and ongoing projects of ADB and other development partners, PEP also acquires lessons and promote effective response toward environmental improvement and poverty reduction from its activities that focus on pilot interventions, targeted analytical studies, and information dissemination.

Means of Information Dissemination

The primary vehicle of PEP for information dissemination is electronic: through the PEP website (www.adb.org/projects/pep) in the ADB domain and the separately maintained and global PovertyEnvironment.net (www.povertyenvironment.net).

The PEP website serves as repository of lessons learned and good practices in addressing poverty-environment issues as identified by PEP and will focus on challenges facing Asia and the Pacific.

The PovertyEnvironment.net, a dedicated global website on poverty-environment initiatives, serves as the vehicle to share knowledge and foster informal exchange and collaboration among poverty-environment stakeholders including country agencies, NGOs, community-based organizations and other development partners. Over time, PovertyEnvironment.net is envisioned to become a significant resource on poverty reduction policies and programs throughout the region and the rest of the world.

PEP Projects

PEP's knowledge-capture efforts are focused on ways to enhance productivity from natural resources to improve livelihood, expand access to environmentally sound and locally appropriate technology, and reduce the environmental vulnerability of the poor. The following are examples of PEP's targeted interventions.

Exploring knowledge on the relationship between sound natural resource management and sustainable livelihood through innovative and community-based approaches

1. Poverty, conservation, and health: responding to the challenges of human welfare in the Asia and Pacific region
2. Implementing the Wangan Aji Micro-Hydro Project in Indonesia
3. Developing sustainable alternative livelihood and community participation in managing wetland resources in Sanjiang Plain, People's Republic of China
4. Rehabilitating Agent Orange-affected forestlands in Quang Tri Province of Viet Nam
5. Implementing the biodiversity corridor program for the Lam Dong Province of Viet Nam
6. Model water mills for sustainable microenterprise development in India

Addressing environmental health through pioneering technologies and approaches to reduce air and water pollution

7. Addressing pollution in India
8. Air and noise pollution reduction strategies for tricycles in the Philippines
9. Smokey Mountain remediation and development project in the Philippines

Demonstrating sustainable natural resource management to reduce the vulnerability of the poor from natural hazards and disasters

10. Enhancing human security through environment and disaster management in Central Viet Nam
11. Saving the tsunami-affected trees in the Maldives
12. Sustaining livelihood development and natural resource management project in Sri Lanka ■