

## TA COMPLETION REPORT

Division : ENVD

TA NO./NAME: TA 2934-KGZ: Environmental Monitoring and Management Capacity Building			TA AMOUNT APPROVED: \$598,000	
			REVISED AMOUNT: --	
EXECUTING AGENCIES: Ministry of Environmental Protection (MOEP)		FUND SOURCE JSF	TA AMOUNT UNDISBURSED: \$72,177.22	TA AMOUNT UTILIZED: \$525,822.78
REPORT DATE: 3 December 2001	APPROVAL DATE: 11 December 1997	SIGNING DATE: 2 February 1998	CONSULTANT FIELDING DATE: 1 July 1998	CLOSING : ORIGINAL: 31 January 2000    ACTUAL: October 2001

### TA DESCRIPTION (Background/Rationale)

Following the Kyrgyz Republic's independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, industrial and agriculture underwent a sharp decline. Despite reduced industrial output, potential for further pollution of air, soil, and water remained. The advent of a market economy called for an entirely new approach to the environment and the use of resources. Very few policymakers had exposure to concepts that relate economic growth with environmental protection so that the resource base will be protected.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection (MOEP) had been elevated in October 1996 to ministerial status from the previous State Committee for Environmental Protection. A more proactive role was apparent in efforts to promote environmental monitoring, and incorporation of environmental projects in economic activities under the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP). A cooperative relationship between MOEP and other government agencies needed to be forged. A TA to strengthen environmental institutions and improve environmental impact assessment in the country had been carried out in 1996. One of the four focal areas recommended by that study to be urgently developed was environmental monitoring.

### TA OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

The objective of the combined assistance (from ADB and the Government of Finland) was to strengthen the capacity of Kyrgyz institutions to effectively carry out environmental monitoring and data management. The targeted improvements were to be achieved through (i) implementing a training-of-trainers program for environmental monitoring and data management, (ii) carrying out pilot-scale monitoring and data management under training case studies, (iii) providing two mobile monitoring units and data management equipment for the training, (iv) drafting plans for environmental monitoring and data management, (v) preparing guidelines and manuals, and (vi) holding workshops and seminars.

Focal areas for pilot-scale monitoring exercises under the training case studies were Chu Province and Bishkek City. Regional plans for environmental monitoring and data management for the Chu area, and outline plan for the whole country were drafted in detail. The organization of the TA was exceptional. There were two parallel projects, financed by ADB and the Government of Finland. ADB was responsible for its own part only, as defined in the TA paper. The two consultant teams worked with the same counterparts, same trainees, and shared the office space and facilities.

### TA INPUTS EVALUATION

The formulation of the TA, as well as the TOR for the consultants was adequate. A coordination risk had been foreseen in the pooling of resources with a parallel project. Coordination and cooperation were good, resulting to further financing. The fact-finding had been carried out by ADB, together with a consultant who represented the Government of Finland. The two consultant teams prepared joint reports, and organized the workshops together, as had been suggested by ADB.

Performance of the international consultants was outstanding, as well as the performance of most of the domestic consultants, based on achievements that exceeded the TOR. At the time when the fieldwork for case studies started, one of the most senior domestic consultants was replaced by two younger experts with better capacity to respond to the requirements of the work. Working days became long because of the time-consuming travel and demonstrations at the site, after which the preliminary analyses and data management were necessary in the same day. Participation of well-trained professional experts from different governmental and municipal agencies became strength of the TA.

A study tour to Finland and UK was attended by 14 trainees, and two information secretaries who were added to the original plan. That made it possible for the trainees to gain full benefit from the tours. The second study tour at the end of the TA was cancelled, as the parallel project was rescheduled due to weather considerations. The aimed focus on report writing was addressed in the work in Bishkek.

The skills and motivation of the domestic counterpart staff were good, and MOEP provided the promised contributions from the recipient side. Cooperation with joint teams of consultants was excellent.

## **TA OUTPUTS EVALUATION**

The consultants prepared inception, interim, and final reports that were reviewed and approved in tripartite meetings. The reports contained both the outcome of the ADB-financed and the Finland-financed parallel TA projects. All reports and training manuals were of good quality. The final report consists of three volumes, namely the main report, annexes, and supporting materials (in Russian). The final report was published and discussed in two workshops in Bishkek, one for professionals, and another for NGOs and any interested persons. All important materials during the implementation were translated into Russian from English, or vice versa, although the language skills of the trainees and counterpart persons improved significantly during the TA. The report has become a popular source of information, and training material in other environmental development approaches in Bishkek.

The TA contributed significantly to the institutional capacity of MOEP, as well as other institutions involved. Trainers trained under the TA strengthened the human resources of their institutions; most of the 14 participants were promoted by their employers during or after the TA. Their domestic and overseas training, and eight case study exercises at home were successful. The TOR of the TA was generally followed. Of the 14 trainees, 11 were female.

An important output was the establishment of cooperation between the institutions involved in environmental monitoring. At least three different institutions share the monitoring databases and use the computer network that was established under the TA. Another key output was the action plan for future development activities, which has become the bases of further projects.

## **TA OVERALL ASSESSMENT/RATING**

As all objectives of the TA were achieved, the TA is considered highly successful. There was a three-month period in the beginning of the year 1999, when the MOEP personnel were reorganized, and the TA schedule was hard to follow. However, at the end the work was back in schedule, in line with the budget, and in accordance with the TOR. The achievements in bringing the recipient agencies were outstanding, as well as the establishment of a strong local will and commitment to continue the development. Cooperation between the donors involved was also excellent, facilitated by good consultants and counterpart staff.

## **MAJOR LESSONS LEARNED**

A lesson to learn from the TA may be the necessity to prepare enough resources for the interpretation and translation works. When the report is distributed and published as a draft for comments from numerous stakeholders, a lot of work is needed to incorporate those comments into the final edition. Considering the value of transparency, and the impact of the TA, those expenses are worth financing. Another lesson is that pooling of resources can have a good result, even without a formal commitment, if the consultants and the Government cooperate well.

## **FOLLOW-UP ACTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the action plan presented in the final report would be implemented. So far, ADB has established TA 3499-KGZ for Phase II, which expands the capacity building to the oblasts of Osh and Jalal-Abad. Other donors have continued the development by enhancing the environmental permit systems in Chu oblast and Bishkek, and by deepening the case studies. Cooperation with those activities is recommended.

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