

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT¹

Division: PAHQ

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| TA No. and Name TA 6204-REG: Mainstreaming Environmental Considerations in Economic and Development Planning Processes in Selected Pacific Developing Member Countries | | | Amount Approved: \$600,000 | | |
| | | | Revised Amount: \$409,149 | | |
| Executing Agency Asian Development Bank | | Source of Funding: TASF | TA Amount Undisbursed \$110,851 | TA Amount Utilized \$409,149 | |
| Approval 3 Dec 2004 | Date | | Completion Date | | |
| | Signing | Fielding of Consultants | Original | | Actual |
| | - | 22 February 2005 | 15 Dec 2005 | | 19 Dec 2008 |
| | | | | Closing Date | |
| | | | Original | | Actual |
| | | | 15 Dec 2005 | | 30 April 2009 |
| Description ADB's <i>Environment Policy</i> (2002) indicates the country environmental analysis (CEA) as a tool that helps assist early incorporation of environmental considerations into the country strategy and program (presently called Country Partnership Strategy [CPS]). This regional technical assistance (RETA) was envisaged to support preparation of CEAs for selected Pacific developing member countries (PDMCs) including the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. ² The RETA further assessed the eight environmental challenges that have been identified by the <i>Pacific Region Environmental Strategy</i> (PRES) ³ as being of highest priority: (i) threats to freshwater resources, (ii) degradation of the marine and coastal environment, (iii) degradation of land and forest, (iv) problems of urbanization and waste management, (v) depletion of biodiversity, (vi) concern on energy use, (vii) adaptation to climate change, and (viii) weaknesses in environmental management capacities and governance. The Pacific Strategy 2005-2009 further emphasized the increasing environmental challenges that may undermine sustainable development, and highlighted the need to overcome these constraints. The RETA supported the preparation of CEA that would assist in identifying key environmental issues and recommend the required interventions. The CEA is directed at the policy, program, and sector levels, with focus on identifying how opportunities and constraints presented by the environment and natural resources can be addressed by suitable interventions including projects and technical assistance. The CEA presents findings and recommendations which were based on participatory and consultative processes, supported by literature review and research. Extensive in-country consultations involved governments, communities, the private sector, nongovernment organizations (NGOs), and development partners (multilateral and bilateral financial institutions and regional institutions). The consultations included a national workshop where the preliminary findings of the CEA were presented and subsequently strengthened through discussion and sharing of additional information. The focus was on key environmental and natural resource management issues and their influence on achieving national development goals. | | | | | |
| Expected Impact, Outcome and Outputs The purpose of the RETA was to assist in preparing CEAs for selected PDMCs that will provide inputs to the CPS. The CEA was to (i) identify priority areas in policy, institutional and legislative mechanisms, and programs and projects that will help mainstream environmental concerns into economic development planning; and (ii) strengthen the understanding among policymaking, economic planning, and environmental authorities about key environmental and natural resource management issues. | | | | | |
| Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities ADB was the Executing Agency that provided direction and guidance to the overall implementation of the RETA. The RETA was implemented in eight PDMCs. The TA inputs in terms of consultant services, financial requirements, and design were adequate in meeting the objectives of the RETA. Four international consultants, eight national consultants (one in each country), and one local consultant (to assist overall TA implementation and based in ADB headquarters) were recruited to assist in TA implementation. The total international consultants' input was 18 person-months, the national consultants' input was 11.5 person-months, and the local consultant's input was 9 person-months. The performance of the international, national, and the local consultants were satisfactory. The TA implementation was envisaged for 11 months, from January to December 2005. It was extended to December 2008 to accommodate changes in country coverage, adjustments on implementation and schedule to enable more extensive stakeholder consultations and better preparation of 8 CEAs in 8 countries, presenting report in the Conference on Evaluation of the 2003-2007 Action Strategy for Nature Conservation, and preparing a synthesis report. TA administration and supervision undertaken by ADB staff is considered satisfactory, including the participation in 7 of the 9 national workshops. These missions also adequately monitored progress and evaluated TA achievements. Substantial time was also spent for administrative matters related to liquidation of consultants' advances. | | | | | |

¹ In preparing any country program or strategy, financing any project, or by making any designation of, or reference to, a particular territory or geographic area in this document, the Asian Development Bank does not intend to make any judgments as to the legal or other status of any territory or area.

² Palau was included to replace Cook Islands, because it has prepared the National Environment Strategic Action Framework 2005-2009 which is similar to CEA.

³ ADB. 2004. *Pacific Region Environmental Strategy (2005-2009)*. Manila.

The TA was implemented through a participatory process that involved key government officials of various line ministries and other stakeholders during the key stages of CEA preparation to ensure ownership. An extensive stakeholder consultation and workshop was held in each participating PDMC to (i) review findings presented in the draft CEA and validate them; and (ii) seek consensus on the priority areas of activities, particularly in mainstreaming environmental concerns in economic and development planning processes. The achievement of the TA objectives and output was satisfactory. The Governments provided adequate support, i.e., counterpart staff, adequate office space, and logistical support. Government representatives, including high level officials, attended national workshops held in each PDMC. The PDMC Governments' commitment and performance has been satisfactory.

Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome

The main outputs of the TA comprised CEA reports for the 8 PDMCs. Each CEA report contains situation analysis of main sectors including role of environment and natural resources in country economy, key environmental issues and challenges, opportunities of environmental improvements in key economic sectors, constraints and barriers. It also contains analysis of governance, institutional framework, policy framework, legal framework, and budgetary framework of environmental agency. The key recommendation of the CEA is reflected as priorities for action. The CEA report, particularly its outputs and recommendations, were discussed with the country team leader for consideration and for inputs to the CPS. This TA also recruited a consultant to undertake review and evaluation of the 2003-2007 *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Island*. This activity was jointly undertaken with the World Bank, NZAID, and SPREP. The report consists of two parts: (i) progress achieved towards the objectives of the action strategy during the past five years, and (ii) recommendations for strengthening the action strategy and enhancing its implementation. These reports were presented as main discussion paper at the 8th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in October 2007 in Alotau, Papua New Guinea.

The TA implementation was extended to (i) accommodate changes in country coverage and undertake more extensive stakeholder consultations for more effective CEA preparation in 8 countries; (ii) provide inputs and recommendations to the 8th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas; (iii) prepare a synthesis report; and (iv) align the CEA reports with the Pacific Region Environmental Strategy, 2005-2009. During the extension period, the TA was able to deliver main outputs, particularly the CEA reports for 8 PDMCs that have also been posted on the ADB website. These CEA reports have provided inputs to CPSs and have been accepted by the respected countries. The Report on the Review of the 2003-2007 Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Island Region has contributed to the Conference and the reports' findings and recommendations have been accepted by the Roundtable for Nature Conservation. Considering the above, the TA design, including relevance of objectives, scope of work, terms of reference, and TA formulation, has been evaluated as appropriate.

Overall Assessment and Rating

Overall, implementation of the TA is rated successful. The extended implementation period due to the above-mentioned reasons has given better opportunities for the TA to provide substantial outputs and assisted in mainstreaming environmental considerations into development planning processes in 8 countries, as well as at ADB. It also provides the basis for sustainable development at country level, as well as in identifying important opportunities for leveraging resources and helping encourage greater local responsibility through partnerships with local, national, and regional organizations. ADB and concerned Pacific island countries, and to some extent regional organizations and development partners, will benefit from the CEA, which hopefully will result in a more judicious use of resources and better harmonization of development efforts. Although the implementation of the recommendations has yet to be attained and will take some time, the general objective of the TA was achieved.

Major Lessons

It was learned that the original timeframe was too short given the participatory and extensive consultation process undertaken, and to cover preparation of 8 CEAs in 8 countries. Strong support was received from key officials of various line ministries during CEA preparation in each country. However, government development budget should cover many competing development priorities, which were not only in the environment areas (such as education, health, income generation, etc.), therefore government commitment for improving environmental management and mainstreaming environmental consideration in development process still need strengthening. Aside from that, political influence may also affect the adoption of recommendations for the project that was related to environment, hence the need to factor these issues as early as possible. This is a useful observation and highlights the importance of focusing on government priorities as a key entry point for mainstreaming environmental considerations into national development planning.

Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions

Mainstreaming of environmental consideration in development planning is not a one-time shot; it should be a continuing process. Therefore, the CEA should always be revisited every time a CPS is prepared. The necessary tools (CEA reports) that have been prepared for selected PDMCs have laid down principles and inputs for environmentally-sound development. It produced a range of recommendations that have been widely accepted as they were the result of stakeholder consultation, and they may not have been adopted by ADB or the Government because of competing needs. Therefore, CEA would need to be taken into consideration every time a CPS is prepared or updated.