TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division: SESS

TA No., Country and Name			Amount Approved: $1,700,000	
TA 4613-THA : Subregional Development Plan for the Tsunami-Affected Andaman Region			Revised Amount: N/A	
Executing Agency Fiscal Policy Office - Ministry of Finance		Source of Funding Asian Tsunami Fund	Amount Undisbursed: $81,056.58	Amount Utilized: $1,618,943.42
TA Approval Date: 6 July 2005	TA Signing Date: 25 July 2005	Fielding of First Consultants: 1 September 2005	TA Completion Date Original: 15 April 2006 Account Closing Date Original: 15 April 2006	Actual: 15 April 2007 Actual: 31 October 2007

Description

Following the tsunami in December 2004 that devastated the coastal areas of several provinces in the south of Thailand and other Asian countries, the Fiscal Policy Office (FPO) of the Ministry of Finance (MOF) in Thailand—the TA Executing Agency—requested technical assistance (TA) on 25 January 2005 to assist the Government in developing a subregional development plan (SRDP) for the Tsunami-Affected Andaman Region. ADB agreed with FPO that the most effective response to the request would be to undertake the task in two phases because of the urgency of the requirement, the complexity of the task, the resources needed for the proposed planning exercise, and the challenging scheduling demands requested by the Government. The first phase, which involved defining the scope of the exercise and producing an outline SRDP, was implemented through a small-scale TA. The second phase, dependent on and defined by the outcome of the first phase, involved developing a comprehensive SRDP and preparing several related sub-plans, in line with the requirements set out in MOF's formal request. ADB approved the initial SSTA for phase 1 in February 2005 and an outline SRDP was completed on 12 April 2005. Based on this outline, TA 4613 was approved in July 2005.

Expected Impact, Outcome and Outputs

The expected impact of the TA was long-term sustainable and balanced development of the provinces affected by the tsunami. The expected outcome of the TA was an SRDP encompassing the Krabi, Phanga, and Phuket provinces within a time frame of 15 years (2006–2020), and a medium-term action plan for priority actions and projects for 2006–2008. The Plan would be accepted by the Government. The expected outputs of the TA were: (i) a situational analysis, (ii) an overall structure plan, (iii) area plans, (iv) broad key strategies, (v) priority sector and thematic plans, and (vi) detailed pilot action plans. The TA design was relevant and the arrangements for its implementation, including the extent of stakeholder participation were appropriate. TA ownership by MOF was very significant, but this was not the same in the case of other Government agencies.

Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities

The TA was planned to be implemented over 9 months, commencing mid-July 2005 and ending mid-April 2006, with services of an international consulting firm, in association with a local firm, for a total of 120 person-months comprising 50 international person-months and 70 national person-months in the areas of regional planning, regional economics, environment/natural resource management, infrastructure planning, community development, crisis management and prevention, social development, tourism, human resource development and institutional analysis. The consultants submitted an inception, interim, draft final report and a final report. The terms of reference were comprehensive and adequate. The consultants were fielded in October 2005. The consultants were qualified and the performance was satisfactory. However, a PER was not completed by ADB without a clear reason. The counterpart support provided by the EA was also satisfactory. FPO established a National Project Steering Committee (NPSC), with members from several ministries, the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) and community organizations, such as the Community Organization Development Institute (CODI). The NPSC met on several occasions to guide the implementation of the TA, and review the working papers and reports prepared by the consultants. At the provincial level, contact persons from the provincial offices of MOF were appointed to coordinate with the offices of the Governors and the relevant departments in the three participating provinces. The entire budget was utilized except part of the contingency ($81,056)

ADB conducted three review missions during TA implementation: (i) an inception mission from 3 to 5 October 2005

to confirm outputs with the executing agency, and the consultant; (ii) a review mission from 3 to 11 February 2006 to discuss the interim report with the national project steering committee and to participate in the dissemination workshops in the three provinces; and (iii) final review mission from 15 to 20 May 2006 to discuss the draft final report and participate in the provincial seminars.

A minor change in scope and request for extension of closing date (cumulative extension of 1 year) was effected in order to accommodate Government's request for a high-quality Sub-regional Development Plan publication and the conduct of national-level dissemination workshops for Government ministries, development partners, and media. As well, there were several provincial workshops conducted in each of the three project provinces to obtain inputs from local communities, and authorities. The client was very satisfied with the services provided and ADB performance can be rated as satisfactory.

Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome

The TA produced a SRDP, which provides the Andaman coast with a blueprint for sustainable development growth to the year 2020. It builds on the various recovery programs being carried out in the subregion. The SRDP combines and promotes the strengths of the three provinces through integrated strategies on land use planning, environmental management, tourism, socio-economic development and infrastructure provision. The Plan advocates cooperation between the three provinces through greater integration of tourism promotion and planning; the development of joint tourism branding for the Andaman coast; shared management of Phang Nga Bay; promotion of eco-cultural tourism circuits (including an Andaman scenic drive), creating common environmental values as through awareness programs and accreditation schemes; preparing regional disaster management strategy and area-wide community-based programs to help local people participate more actively in tourism opportunities and exploitation of local specialities.

The SRDP comprises of six volumes namely: (i) a subregional structure plan for the three provinces; (ii) six core strategies on economic development, tourism, social and community development, environment, infrastructure and risk mitigation, (ii) six detailed area plans; (iii) eight pilot action plans for specific localities; (iv) 17 priority theme and action plans within the core strategies; (v) concept papers for 32 proposed projects; and (vi) an implementation framework, including a human resource development plan for the subregion. The SRDP was produced in English and Thai (70 copies in total) and placed in a Project website in March 2006. A high quality document in color, summarizing the Plan was also produced (2000 copies) and widely distributed in the three provinces and among relevant authorities in Bangkok. An information paper on the plan was prepared by Ministry of Finance and circulated to the Thai Government cabinet in June 2006. The outputs were of high quality, were produced in timely manner and with a significant level of efficiency. The outcome was achieved as planned and acknowledged by the Government, who were very satisfied.

Overall Assessment and Rating. TA is rated as successful. The SRDP, the first of a kind in Thailand will help the Government coordinate and monitor the sustainable planning and development of the subregion over the medium and long term, taking a comprehensive and multisectoral view. It could become a model for the preparation of other regional plans or strategies for multi-provincial clusters established by the Government. The SRDP will be a valuable tool to avoid wastage and duplication of efforts in Government spending, attract private sector investment, avoid uncontrolled infrastructure developments, protect the environmental and social assets of the subregion and build on complementarities among the three provinces to better distribute resources and development.

Major Lessons

The involvement of community organizations in the NPSC and the broad discussions with local people through the organization of several rounds of public hearings and workshops was key to achieving consensus on the content of the plan. However, the focus of the communities on short-term concerns immediately after the Tsunami made the preparation of a long-term comprehensive plan quite challenging. The transfer of knowledge on state-of-the-art planning methodologies would have been more effective if NESDB, which is in charge of national planning, had been more deeply involved in the TA.

Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions

ADB is now assisting NESDB in the preparation of an overall planning framework for the 14 provinces in the south of Thailand, which includes the three provinces included under this TA. The SRDP should be used as one of the key inputs for this planning exercise (TA 7050). The SRDP website should be transferred from MOF to NESDB and maintained by them.

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