

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF CAPACITY BUILDING TO COMBAT LAND DEGRADATION PROJECT

A. Introduction

1. The Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) requested the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 2000 to take a lead role in facilitating the preparation of a country programming framework (CPF) for the PRC-Global Environment Facility (GEF) Partnership on Land Degradation (LD) in Dryland Ecosystems, under GEF's Operational Program 12. The Capacity Building to Combat LD project is the first of a series of planned projects under the CPF. Project implementation and the monitoring of the overall CPF will be supported by the proposed technical assistance (TA).

B. The Technical Assistance

1. Purpose and Outputs

2. The purpose of the TA is to monitor the implementation of the overall CPF and assist in the implementation of the Project. The key outputs will be advice, reports, and recommendations on (i) best practices for integrated ecosystem management approaches to combating LD, including setting up an integrated ecosystem management expert group, consisting of domestic experts, to promote networking among PRC scientists, researchers, and organizations and advise on project implementation; (ii) results of past LD interventions; (iii) planning of studies, workshops, seminars, and training programs; (iv) international scientific links to ongoing LD-relevant programs and projects; (v) identification of relevant projects and programs in the PRC and overseas; and (vii) compliance with appropriate ADB safeguard policies, including a minority peoples plan.

2. Methodology and Key Activities

3. The TA will provide consultancy services in work scheduling, monitoring, and coordination. It will also support compliance with ADB and GEF reporting requirements and safeguard policies of the Project and the overall CPF. The consultants will work in five of the six project components, namely, (i) improving the policy, laws, and regulations for LD control; (ii) strengthening national and provincial coordination; (iii) improving operational arrangements at provincial and county levels; (iv) developing capacity for LD investment projects; and (v) monitoring and evaluation system for LD.

3. Implementation Arrangements and Scope

4. The TA will require about 19 person-months of international and about 103 person-months of domestic consulting expertise. Specializations required are environmental law, institutions, dryland ecosystems management, participatory planning, LD project design, LD assessment, and LD dataset coordination. Flexibility in the expertise required will be necessary to respond to priorities as the TA progresses.

5. The Executing Agency for the TA will be the Ministry of Finance (MOF), which is also the Executing Agency for the overall CPF. The consultants will support the project coordination office (PCO), the project management office (PMO), and the three advisory groups financed under the Project and work collaboratively with the consultants financed by GEF (Appendix 10). Consultants will be engaged by ADB in accordance with ADB's *Guidelines on the Use of*

Consultants, and other arrangements satisfactory to ADB for the engagement of domestic consultants. The TA is expected to commence in July 2004 and be completed by July 2007 (36 months). Implementation will be guided by annual work plans and reports to be regularly reviewed in meetings with the Steering Committee for the overall Project, GEF, and ADB. MOF will prepare the final report. The engagement of consultants may be through consulting firms or individuals on the basis of a simplified technical proposal. Quality- and cost-based selection will be used.

4. Costs

6. The total cost of the TA is shown in Table A11.1. ADB will provide \$1 million to cover all foreign exchange costs (\$507,500) and 71% of local currency costs (\$492,500) equivalent. The ADB TA will cover international and domestic consultants, international and domestic travel and related reporting, office operations, and communication costs. The Government will provide \$200,000 equivalent of local currency costs (29%) to cover office accommodation, transport, and remuneration of counterparts. The TA will be funded from the ADB TA funding program.

C. Outline Terms of Reference

7. **Environmental Law and Policy Specialists** (8 person-months international, 25 person-months domestic). The specialists will work toward a clear and consistent policy, legal, and regulatory framework for combating LD and sustainable environmental management. Advice will be given on (i) a comprehensive toolbox of legislative and ecological standards; (ii) facilitating implementation of integrated ecosystem management in the legal, policy, and institutional arrangements; (iii) harmonization of legislation relevant to integrated ecosystem management and procedures and instruments for implementation at the provincial level; (iv) procedures for ecosystem function zones to be integrated with agriculture, forestry, desertification control, and other relevant zones, and for planning-based environmental impact assessment (EIA) under the EIA Law; (v) monitoring implementation of laws and policies; (vi) legal standards and procedures relevant to poverty relief, incentive-based mechanisms, and private sector involvement, covering land tenure, land use rights, gender rights, and market access; (vii) provincial-level compensation procedures for grassland closure, banning activities in protected areas, and measures to improve sustainable livelihoods, and minority and gender rights; (viii) legal standards for EIA, legislative enforcement, regulation, and sanctions; (ix) improving public participation in LD prevention, land use, decision making, community participation, and resolving disputes; (x) training programs, materials, and modules of intensive courses for international study; (xi) specific legal studies; (xii) liaison with participants; and (xiv) Website material and reports on legal and regulatory reform.

8. **Land Degradation Planning and Assessment Specialist** (11 person-months international, 6 person-months domestic). The specialist will advise the PCO and/or PMO and national expert groups responsible for oversight and guidance related to the planning and implementation of the activities and tasks of components 2, 3, 4, and 5; development of a national and provincial institutional capacity for macro-level strategic planning for LD control, in line with integrated ecosystem management principles; development of provincial- and county-level institutional capacity at the community and/or field level, through participatory integrated ecosystem management planning; development of a provincial-level capacity for designing investment projects for LD control; provision of advice on capacity for comprehensive monitoring and assessment of LD; compliance with ADB safeguard policies, including a minority peoples plan.

9. **Institutions Specialist** (18 person-months domestic). This individual is responsible for promoting various component-2 activities in a timely and effective manner; acting as the secretary for the national expert group; arranging meetings and ensuring that reports and related documents are circulated; liaising between the expert group and the PMO and/or PCO; overseeing production of a report on the current mandates, roles, and responsibilities of the national-, provincial-, and county-level institutions involved in LD; and identifying ways to improve intersector coordination.

10. **Participatory Planning Specialist** (18 person-months domestic). Responsible for promoting component-3 activities; advising on community-based participatory planning, including minority rights and gender issues, oversight of a report assessing the operational arrangements, institutional capacity, and training needs at the provincial and/or autonomous region and county levels for LD control at the community and/or field level; acting as the resource person for capacity building and training of provincial- and county-level technical bureau staff, with responsibility for controlling LD at the field level; and assisting in finding nonproject sources of community-based LD control plans.

11. **Land Degradation Project Design Team** (12 person-months domestic). This team will develop provincial capabilities in LD project design and feasibility studies, inclusive of technical and social aspects, such as minority rights, gender issues, and economic and environmental aspects. The consultants will back up the provincial-level feasibility studies, promoting the eligibility criteria for integrated ecosystem management investment projects under the OP12 PRC-GEF Partnership.¹

12. **National Land Degradation Data Coordinator** (24 person-months domestic). The coordinator is responsible for overseeing the development of interagency national, provincial and, county institutional capacity for comprehensive monitoring and assessment of LD within the drylands, including a report on current practices in the collection of LD data; overseeing the formulation of proposals and options for a national LD monitoring and coordination network mechanism; advising on common definitions and standards for national LD data-sets; overseeing development and testing field-level monitoring and assessment tools and indicators for use in the pilot studies.

13. **Integrated Ecosystem Management Expert Advisory Group** (8–10 members). This group will be set up to assist in identifying best practices for integrated ecosystem management approaches internationally and in the PRC; promote networking among PRC scientists, researchers, and organizations both inside the PRC and overseas; and assist provinces and/or autonomous regions with innovative and sustainable approaches.

14. As appropriate, the consultants will also assist the PCO and/or PMO in ensuring the quality of study design and international study tours, workshop and/or seminar programming and presentations, training guidelines, and manuals. Importantly, the consultants will (i) develop international scientific links to ongoing LD-relevant programs and approaches; (ii) identify relevant projects in the PRC and overseas; (iii) promote networking among PRC scientists, researchers, and organizations; and (iv) document best practices in combating LD and implementing integrated ecosystem management. The indicative schedule for consultant inputs is given in Table A11.2.

¹ The agreed project eligibility criteria (in addition to the existing GEF principles and criteria) are given in Supplementary Appendix G.

Table A11.1: Cost Estimates and Financing Plan
(\$ '000)

Item	Foreign Exchange	Local Currency	Total Cost
A. Asian Development Bank Financing^a			
1. Consultants			
a. Remuneration, Per Diem, and Travel			
i. International Consultants	418.0	0.0	418.0
ii. Domestic Consultants	0.0	360.5	360.5
b. International and Domestic Travel	32.0	30.5	62.5
2. Expert Advisory Group on Integrated Ecosystem Management ^b		50.0	50.0
3. Office Operation, Reports, and Communications	25.0	20.0	45.0
4. Contingencies	32.5	31.5	64.0
Subtotal (A)	507.5	492.5	1,000.0
B. Government Financing^c			
1. Office Accommodation and Transport	0.0	48.0	48.0
2. Remuneration and Per Diem of Counterpart Staff	0.0	130.0	130.0
3. Others	0.0	22.0	22.0
Subtotal (B)	0.0	200.0	200.0
Total	507.5	692.5	1,200.0

^a Funded by the Technical Assistance Special Fund.

^b Covering honoraria, meetings, and field work to advise provincial project management offices.

^c Included within the Government's \$6.3 million equivalent allocation to the Capacity Building to Combat Land Degradation Project.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.