



Regional: Strengthening Integrated Water Resources Management in Mountainous River Basins

Project Name	Strengthening Integrated Water Resources Management in Mountainous River Basins		
Project Number	46257-001		
Country / Economy	Regional Afghanistan Bhutan Nepal		
Project Status	Closed		
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance		
Source of Funding / Amount	TA 9095-REG: Strengthening Integrated Water Resources Management in Mountainous River Basins		
	Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific	US\$ 2.00 million	
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth		
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships		
Sector / Subsector	Agriculture and Natural Resources / Agriculture, natural resources and rural development		
Gender	No gender elements		
Description	The proposed regional capacity development technical assistance (TA) will help strengthen integrated water resources management (IWRM) in Afghanistan, Bhutan, and Nepal. The TA will contribute to the management of environment and climate change impacts, one of the strategic priorities in the Midterm Review of Strategy 2020 of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). It will do this by assisting target river basins in strengthening water resources management to cope with (i) expected changes in water availability due to climate change, and (ii) increase in water demand due to economic and population growth. ADB's Water Operational Plan, 2011- 2020 prioritizes embedding the IWRM process in river basins.		
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	Recent population growth, economic development, and urbanization are increasing water, food, and energy demand in Asia and the Pacific region. With more than 75% of the countries in the region lacking water security, the gaps in water governance are expanding, and strengthening water resources management is becoming a pressing issue. Climate change will affect temperature, rainfall, and cultivation patterns, which may add to the complexity and urgency of managing water resources. It will also increase the frequency and severity of water-related disasters. These concerns require improved water resources management that considers all water users within a river basin. The impact of climate change and competing demands for finite water resources require improved water resources management that considers all water users within a river basin. In Asia, the Hindu- Kush Himalaya (HKH) region is one of the areas that are most vulnerable and exposed to the impacts of climate change. As the source of major rivers, including Amu Darya, Ganges, Indus, Mekong, and Yangtze, the HKH area contains the world's third-largest freshwater reserve and provides water to almost 20% of the global population. IWRM could be a suitable tool to achieve good water governance. It can be responsive to stakeholders' needs, future water demands, and the likely impacts of climate change. Many countries in the region have already adopted national water policies that advocate IWRM in river basins. River basin organizations (RBOs) are crucial for IWRM implementation, which involves planning and monitoring water use, tracking regulatory changes with stakeholder involvement, and preparing investments. ADB projects in the HKH area have supported initiatives to establish RBOs. Faced with basin water challenges, countries in the HKH area require immediate support for institutional strengthening and capacity building to form new RBOs and to strengthen the performance of existing RBOs in managing pressing water security challenges. The proposed TA will focus on HKH areas that rely on vulnerable water resources (glacial snow melt and precipitation). The target countries of the proposed TA (Afghanistan, Bhutan, and Nepal) were identified based on the following: (i) geographical location and vulnerability to climate change; (ii) needs of counterpart agencies in supporting river basin planning and institutional strengthening of RBOs; and (iii) strong linkage with ongoing or pipeline ADB projects supporting river basin management. Target river basins are Panj-Amu (Afghanistan), where a project preparatory TA for the Panj-Amu River Basin Project is undertaken; Wangchhu (Bhutan), where the proposed TA will supplement efforts undertaken by the Adapting to Climate Change through IWRM TA; and Bagmati (Nepal), where the proposed TA will be implemented in conjunction with the Bagmati River Basin Improvement Project. The proposed TA is expected to benefit 8 million people in the three basins.		
Impact	By 2020, accelerated and expanded implementation of IWRM, delivering improved water security and enhanced efficiency and productivity By 2030, implement IWRM at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate		
Project Outcome			
Description of Outcome	IWRM in target river basins sustainably implemented		
Progress Toward Outcome			
Implementation Progress			
Description of Project Outputs	Water resources institutions strengthened Technical capacity of staff of water resources institutions in target river basins enhanced Knowledge of and good practices for IWRM broadly disseminated in Asia and the Pacific region		
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	Inception workshops have been conducted for the 3 target countries. Review missions were fielded by ADB on February (Bhutan) and August (Bhutan and Nepal) 2017. Various in-country activities have been done such as the RBO assessment workshops and coordination meetings in AFG and water quality training and data collection and monitoring training in BHU. Regional workshop to share experiences and lessons learnt among the 3 countries was held in Nepal on May 2018. An Study Executive Tour on river basin management was completed in Japan for BHU and NEP participants in August 2018. Another study tour on IWRM in Thailand was also implemented for the counterpart officials of AFG, BHU and NEP in Feb.2019.		
Geographical Location	Afghanistan - Nation-wide, Amu Darya; Bhutan - Nation-wide, Wangchu Reservoir Hydro Power Plant; Nepal - Nation-wide, Bagmati River		
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects			

Environmental Aspects
Involuntary Resettlement
Indigenous Peoples
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation
During Project Design
During Project Implementation

Business Opportunities	
Consulting Services	ADB will engage international and national consultants through a consulting firm, following the quality- and cost-based selection method with a quality-to-cost ratio of 90:10. ADB will select and engage the consulting firm in accordance with the Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (2013, as amended from time to time). All disbursements under the TA will be made in accordance with ADB's Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook (2010, as amended from time to time).

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Responsible ADB Division	SDSC-WAT
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Timetable	
Concept Clearance	24 Sep 2015
Fact Finding	24 Aug 2015 to 16 Sep 2015
MRM	-
Approval	12 Apr 2016
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	29 Mar 2019

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Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
12 Apr 2016	-	12 Apr 2016	30 Apr 2019	30 Nov 2019	28 Feb 2020

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
0.00	2,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000,000.00	17 Jun 2022	1,910,065.44

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