



Regional: Protecting and Investing in Natural Capital in Asia and the Pacific

Project Name	Protecting and Investing in Natural Capital in Asia and the Pacific																						
Project Number	50159-001																						
Country / Economy	Regional Bangladesh Bhutan India Indonesia Lao People's Democratic Republic Nepal Pakistan Philippines China, People's Republic of Samoa Viet Nam																						
Project Status	Closed																						
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance																						
Source of Funding / Amount	<table border="1"><tr><td colspan="3">TA 9461-REG: Protecting and Investing in Natural Capital in Asia and the Pacific</td></tr><tr><td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td><td></td><td>US\$ 900,000.00</td></tr><tr><td>Climate Change Fund</td><td></td><td>US\$ 955,000.00</td></tr><tr><td>Global Environment Facility</td><td></td><td>US\$ 1.83 million</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">TA 9461-REG: Protecting and Investing in Natural Capital in Asia and the Pacific</td></tr><tr><td>Climate Change Fund</td><td></td><td>US\$ 800,000.00</td></tr><tr><td>Republic of Korea e-Asia and Knowledge Partnership Fund</td><td></td><td>US\$ 500,000.00</td></tr></table>		TA 9461-REG: Protecting and Investing in Natural Capital in Asia and the Pacific			Technical Assistance Special Fund		US\$ 900,000.00	Climate Change Fund		US\$ 955,000.00	Global Environment Facility		US\$ 1.83 million	TA 9461-REG: Protecting and Investing in Natural Capital in Asia and the Pacific			Climate Change Fund		US\$ 800,000.00	Republic of Korea e-Asia and Knowledge Partnership Fund		US\$ 500,000.00
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Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth Regional integration																						
Drivers of Change	Gender Equity and Mainstreaming Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships Private sector development																						
Sector / Subsector	Agriculture, natural resources and rural development / Forestry - Land-based natural resources management Energy / Energy sector development and institutional reform Water and other urban infrastructure and services / Urban water supply																						
Gender	Some gender elements																						
Description	The knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will build the business case and capacity of ADB developing member countries (DMCs) to invest in natural capital. The TA will support (i) analytical studies, including biophysical and economic assessments to identify and justify natural capital investments; (ii) preparation of investment components of projects; (iii) strengthening of legal frameworks and enforcement mechanism for natural capital, including measures to address the illegal wildlife trade (IWT); and (iv) strengthening of knowledge and capacity for natural capital investments.																						
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	The TA is aligned with ADB's Strategy 2030 and its Operational Priority 3: Tackling Climate Change, Building Climate Resilience, and Enhancing Environmental Sustainability which is central to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity. The TA is being implemented by ADB through the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Environment Thematic Group that aims to improve natural capital assets of ADB developing member countries (DMCs) towards environmentally sustainable growth.																						
Impact	Natural capital assets of DMCs improved.																						
Project Outcome																							
Description of Outcome	Commitment of DMCs to invest in natural capital increased.																						
Progress Toward Outcome	The TA has identified focal countries, sectors, and projects for biophysical/economic assessment and support for the preparation of natural capital investment proposals which include Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Samoa, Thailand and Viet Nam.																						
Implementation Progress																							
Description of Project Outputs	Business-case for natural capital investments established Investments in natural capital prepared Capacity to address illegal wildlife crime enhanced Knowledge and capacity for natural capital investment strengthened.																						

Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues) Under Output 1, ongoing activities include biophysical and economic assessments to inform the preparation of investment projects and strengthen DMC knowledge and capacity to design and implement these investments. The TA currently supports (i) promoting nature-based solutions in project design (e.g., reforestation, watershed management, room for the river) in selected river basins in Indonesia and the Philippines; (ii) supporting the integration of biodiversity, ecosystems and forest habitats in landscape planning for infrastructure in Bhutan and Nepal; (iii) assessing basin-scale ecosystem conditions and water quality in Ravi River by developing land-use map for water quality assessment to inform and contribute to the River Ravi Revitalization Master Plan in Pakistan; (iv) integration of biodiversity conservation into urban design in New Clark City, Philippines; (v) development of watershed management plan in the catchment area of the Siri Toi Reservoir, Pakistan; (vi) community-based land-use and conservation planning in Xe Champhone Wetlands, Lao People's Democratic Republic; (vii) terrestrial ecology assessment (Aloa Multipurpose Dam), Samoa; and (viii) assessing ecological risks of potential renewable energy investment projects using Bird e-Sensitivity Mapping for India, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam. The Bird e-Sensitivity mapper will be an open source portal for use by developers and regulators to ensure risks of potential renewable energy investments for birds are identified, sensitive locations are avoided and ecologically sensitive design is considered at the outset. Through knowledge and capacity building activities (linked to output iv) the mapper will facilitate quicker approval of projects supporting DMCs in their push to expand increases in renewable energy.

Output 2 is closely linked to biophysical and economic assessments of output 1. Ongoing activities for output 2 include providing recommendations in preparing investments with regards to natural capital protection, enhancement and management. This also considers innovative approaches such as ecosystem-based adaptation and other nature-based solutions (NbS) to address climate change and disaster risk management. Out of all the activities conducted in output 1, only numbers ii (Bhutan), iv, vii and viii above are purely assessments and do not lead to preparation of natural capital investments. Additional investment preparations under output 2 activities also include supporting ecological protection in the Xin'an River, People's Republic of China; and national level support to promote NbS in road construction through policy reform in Bangladesh.

Output 3: Ongoing activities under output 3 include the drafting and expert review of legal reforms in the Philippines, particularly amendment to Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, the implementation of demand reduction measures for at least two priority species, and the capacity building program developed with training for up to 338 government officials in the Philippines (44% women). The project has consolidated the outputs of three public regional consultations which were considered in drafting a second version of a House Bill to amend Republic Act 9147 (Wildlife Act of the Philippines).

Output 4: For output 4, cross-cutting knowledge work to capture and disseminate findings and lessons from projects includes the Guidelines for Mainstreaming NbS in ADB Water Sector Investments, Economic Analysis of NbS in Flood Risk Management, Biodiversity Assessment Study for New Clark City, Assessing Design Standard Guidelines and Sustainability Management for New Clark City, Brochure/Knowledge Products on Addressing the Illegal Wildlife Trade in the Philippines and Bird e-Sensitivity Mapping associated guidance notes. A working paper on integrating NbS for climate change adaptation and disaster risk management in ADB projects is also being developed. Moreover, the TA has supported five regional and seven in-country knowledge and capacity workshops on natural capital including NbS.

The Training for engineers and infrastructure planners (South Asia) was completed under Biodiversity-sensitive infrastructure design component.

Geographical Location Bangladesh - Nation-wide; Bhutan - Nation-wide; China - Nation-wide; India - Nation-wide; Indonesia - Nation-wide; Lao People's Democratic Republic - Nation-wide; Nepal - Nation-wide; Pakistan - Nation-wide; Philippines - Nation-wide; Samoa - Nation-wide; Viet Nam - Nation-wide

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design A national and regional workshop with partner countries is programmed in Q4 2019.

During Project Implementation

Responsible ADB Officer	Endo, Isao
Responsible ADB Department	Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department
Responsible ADB Division	Climate Change, Resilience, and Environment Cluster (CCRE)
Executing Agencies	Asian Development Bank

Timetable

Concept Clearance	20 Sep 2017
Fact Finding	04 Dec 2018 to 04 Dec 2018
MRM	-
Approval	13 Dec 2017
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	02 Feb 2021

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Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
13 Dec 2017	-	13 Dec 2017	31 Dec 2020	30 Nov 2022	31 May 2023

Financing Plan/TA Utilization							Cumulative Disbursements	
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
2,655,000.00	2,334,862.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,989,862.00	07 Jun 2023	4,576,927.25

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