China, People's Republic of: Improving Ecological Protection and Poverty Alleviation Outcomes of the Rare-Earth Sector in Jiangxi Province

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<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Improving Ecological Protection and Poverty Alleviation Outcomes of the Rare-Earth Sector in Jiangxi Province</th>
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<tr>
<td>Project Number</td>
<td>51013-001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>China, People's Republic of</td>
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<td>Project Status</td>
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<td>Project Type / Modality of Assistance</td>
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| Source of Funding / Amount | TA 9480-PRC: Improving Ecological Protection and Poverty Alleviation Outcomes of the Rare-Earth Sector in Jiangxi Province  
Technical Assistance Special Fund  
US$ 400,000.00 |

**Strategic Agendas**
- Environmentally sustainable growth
- Inclusive economic growth

**Drivers of Change**
- Governance and capacity development
- Knowledge solutions

**Sector / Subsector**
- Agriculture, natural resources and rural development - Agricultural policy, institutional and capacity development

**Gender Equity and Mainstreaming**
- Some gender elements

**Description**
The proposed knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will support improved integration of poverty alleviation and ecological protection efforts in Jiangxi Province of the People's Republic of China (PRC). It will explore the influence of the rare-earth mineral sector on poverty alleviation and environmental outcomes in Jiangxi Province, and prepare policy recommendations for improved integration of poverty alleviation and ecological protection efforts in the province, with Ganzhou Prefecture as focal area. The TA is aligned with the following impact: the PRC's supporting system for poverty alleviation improved. The TA will have the following outcome: poverty alleviation and environmental protection policies in Jiangxi Province improved.

**Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy**
Rural poverty is widespread in Jiangxi Province, with 25 counties included in the national list of identified poverty-stricken counties, including much of the Luoxiao Mountains' contiguous area. Poverty alleviation is high on the agenda of the Jiangxi Provincial Government, as part of national efforts under the Thirteenth Five-Year Plan (2016-2020). However, efforts have focused heavily on development of resource-intensive industries as engines for increasing economic growth. The mineral sector is a major contributor to Jiangxi Province's economy, with rare-earth extraction and processing the most significant subsector. While development of these natural capital assets has provided opportunities for economic growth, there are increasing problems of water pollution, biodiversity loss, erosion, and deteriorating agricultural productivity. Economic performance has masked the negative impacts of pollution and degradation of natural capital. Such development is unsustainable, limits economic prosperity over the longer term, and is contrary to the PRC's broader goals of building an ecological civilization. This TA will explore the influence of the rare-earth mineral sector on poverty alleviation and environmental outcomes in Jiangxi Province, and prepare policy recommendations for improved integration of poverty alleviation and ecological protection efforts in the province, with Ganzhou Prefecture as focal area. The proposed TA will assist the Jiangxi Provincial Government through the Jiangxi Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference to deliver inclusive economic growth with improved environmental sustainability in Jiangxi Province, supporting the PRC's ecological civilization objectives.

**Impact**
The People's Republic of China's supporting system for poverty alleviation improved

**Project Outcome**

| Description of Outcome | Poverty alleviation and environmental protection policies in Jiangxi Province improved |

**Progress Toward Outcome**

| Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues) | The TA became effective on 12 January 2018 and the consulting firm was mobilized in May 2018. The inception phase has been completed. A minor change in scope and implementation arrangements was approved in November 2018. The consultants' terms of reference and TA implementation schedule were revised based on this minor change. The consultants' contract termination date and TA completion date were also revised in accordance with the revised TA implementation schedule. |

**Geographical Location**
Nation-wide, Ganzhou, Ganzhou, Ganzhou

**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

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will administer and coordinate implementation of the TA through the East Asia Department and will work closely with the Jiangxi Provincial Government through the Jiangxi Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (JPPCC), which will be both the executing and implementing agencies of the TA. ADB will engage a consulting firm following the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and the associated project administration instructions and technical assistance instructions. It is anticipated that the knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will require 21 person-months of consulting services, comprising at least three national and two international consultants. Areas of expertise required will include minerals industry analysis, policy and regulation, socioeconomic analyses, and environmental economics. These consultants will be engaged by ADB in accordance with the Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) using the quality- and cost-based selection method, with a quality cost ratio of 90:10 given the high technical complexity. It is anticipated that the consultants will be mobilized during the first quarter of 2018.

Procurement

Nil

Responsible ADB Officer
Giorgetti, Annabelle C.

Responsible ADB Department
East Asia Department

Responsible ADB Division
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Division, EARD

Executing Agencies
Jiangxi Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (JPPCC)
No. 23, Taipingqiao Street

Timetable

Concept Clearance 16 Nov 2017
Fact Finding 17 Jul 2017 to 19 Jul 2017
MRM -
Approval 21 Dec 2017
Last Review Mission -
Last PDS Update 25 Mar 2019

TA 9480-PRC

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<th>Effectivity Date</th>
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<td>12 Jan 2018</td>
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<td>30 Apr 2019</td>
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Project Page
https://www.adb.org/projects/51013-001/main

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