

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ON WORKING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN  
ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK  
AND  
WWF-WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE**

**A. OBJECTIVES**

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) will develop a partnership to contribute toward the sustainable management of natural resources on which we all depend. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) constitutes the framework for projects and activities between the two Parties named above.

**B. BACKGROUND**

2. The contributions of civil society in sustainable development, conservation of natural resources, environmental management and poverty alleviation have been acknowledged by many international agencies and national governments, including ADB. There is also common recognition by stakeholders for the need to act on a common agenda and achieve synergy to be more effective in addressing the above concerns.

3. ADB is a public international organization with a membership of 59 member countries established by an intergovernmental agreement known as the "Agreement Establishing the Asian Development Bank," with its headquarters in the Republic of the Philippines. ADB has certain privileges, immunities and exemptions under that Agreement, the "Agreement between the Asian Development Bank and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines regarding the Headquarters of the Asian Development Bank," and other agreements with members of ADB.

4. ADB seeks to build strategic alliances with partners in the international development community, drawing on the special expertise and comparative advantage of organizations like WWF for the greater benefit of its clients. The ADB-WWF partnership is in line with ADB's Long-Term Strategic Framework (2001-2015) encompassing sustainable economic growth, inclusive social development, and improving governance, and the complementary cross cutting themes (i) promoting the role of the private sector in development; (ii) supporting regional cooperation and integration for development; and (iii) addressing environmental sustainability. Consequently, with an overarching goal of reducing poverty, ADB embraces sustainable development and recognizes the need for cooperation with other internationally reputed development partners to enhance the awareness of and sensitivity to social and environmental factors and to engage all stakeholders in the development process.

5. WWF is the world's largest conservation organization. Its Mission is the conservation of biological diversity that we all need to survive. With almost five million supporters distributed throughout five continents and with over 50 network offices, WWF can safely claim to have played a major role in the evolution of the international conservation movement. Its headquarters in Switzerland, WWF International, is an

independent foundation registered under Swiss law. Its role is to lead and coordinate the network of WWF offices around the world, through developing policies and priorities, fostering partnerships, coordinating international campaigns and providing support to the global Network. In Asia, WWF has 15 offices that implement projects in 20 countries.

6. Both ADB and WWF recognize that, with such massive and complex challenges, partnerships are essential, building on synergies of each organization's strengths and their shared vision of poverty reduction and environmentally sustainable development. Thus it is considered mutually beneficial for ADB and WWF – and the countries that they serve – to develop closer working arrangements.

### C. PRINCIPAL AREAS OF PARTNERSHIP

7. The **Target Driven Program** to be developed would include cooperative arrangements at the national, regional, and global levels of mutual interest to ADB and WWF. The ADB-WWF Target Driven Program would identify joint projects and/or activities in areas of common interest to the two organizations, and more importantly, annual milestones and targets for both ADB and WWF. Within one year of the signing of this MOU, representatives of ADB and WWF plan to conclude design of one or more joint activities including implementation arrangements.

8. Continuing collaborative activities would be undertaken separately or in support of the Target Driven Program. These may include, but are not be limited to, the following:

- (i) **Forums and Stakeholder Consultations.** The Parties plan to invite each other to send representatives to meetings, workshops, and conferences convened by them or under their auspices, on topics of mutual interest and application, subject to available budgetary resources within each organization.
- (ii) **Information Sharing, Knowledge Management and Capacity Building.** This would focus on, but not be restricted to, the transfer of skills and tools to respective client groups, including sharing of and collaboration on publications and other sources of information, transfer of cutting-edge technologies in conservation, environmental management, and other fields, and legal and policy mechanisms for implementation of international conventions. ADB and WWF will keep each other informed of their respective policies, strategies, and programs of assistance in developing member countries of common membership through exchange of newsletters, country-specific studies, and other relevant documents.
- (iii) **Staff Exchanges.** Subject to available budgetary resources within ADB and WWF, and in accordance with rules and procedures of both Parties, ADB and WWF will explore the possibility of exchanging staff, where appropriate and feasible, for purposes of training or work on joint programs. Such programs could initially focus on natural resources and biodiversity conservation and environmental management considerations in national policies and large development projects and programs,

through the use of ecoregional planning as a tool to promote sustainable development, and environmental impact assessments.

#### **D. COORDINATION**

9. Chief, Office of Environment and Social Development, ADB, and Director, Asia-Pacific Program, WWF, or their successors would monitor the application of this MOU and the achievement of its objectives. They would each delegate a focal point to be the primary contact for this MOU.

10. In line with the procedural nature of this MOU, none of the Parties to this MOU would make any commitments or take any positions on behalf of the other without the organization's specific, written consent. In addition, each organization would maintain its decision-making authority and the right to express its opinion individually on topics related to this MOU.

#### **E. TERMINATION**

11. Either Party may terminate this MOU at any time by giving a six-month notice in writing to the other Party. Within 30 days after giving of the notice, both parties would meet to agree what action would be taken in relation to activities already approved or in progress under the terms of this MOU.

#### **F. ANNUAL REVIEW**

12. The working arrangements set forth herein would be reviewed on an annual basis by the officials named in paragraph 9 or their nominees who would submit simultaneously a joint written report to the President of ADB and Director General of WWF. The goal of each such report would be to assess progress made and make specific recommendations on areas of possible cooperation between the Parties. A joint written report would be submitted to the President of ADB and Director General of WWF on progress made and specific recommendations for implementation each year.

13. This MOU expresses the desires of the parties but does not, and shall not be deemed to, constitute a legally binding agreement by the Parties.

14. Signed by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties in two copies, on the dates indicated below:

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President  
Asian Development Bank  
26 September 2001

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Director General  
WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature  
26 September 2001