SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

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I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY

A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy
The project will contribute to poverty reduction and inclusive growth for urban and rural residents by supporting (i) ecological conservation through barren hills greening, (ii) wetland management and rehabilitation, (iii) river mainstream and tributary watercourse improvement, (iv) wastewater and solid-waste management, and (v) institutional strengthening and capacity development. The project will provide opportunities for employment during construction and operation. The project will also raise public awareness to promote environmental protection. Communities and local people will participate in project activities. The project supports the PRC's Thirteenth Five-Year Plan (2016–2020) by fostering social inclusion with a high level of community participation, and promoting environmental sustainability and economic growth. The project also supports ADB priorities as stated in the midterm review of Strategy 2020; Environment Operational Division, 2013–2020; Water Operational Plan, 2011–2020; and Urban Operational Plan, 2012–2020 to increase coverage and improved services for sanitation and to promote integrated water resources and river basin management. The project also contributes to Sustainable Development Goals by improving sanitation, and conforms to ADB’s urban and water sector strategies, which encourage green, competitive, and inclusive development; efficient water use; expanded wastewater management; and protection and rehabilitation of degraded riparian and wetland environments.

B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during PPTA or Due Diligence
1. Key poverty and social issues. The project area is located in Henan province, which is relatively impoverished on a national scale. The province has a small-industrialized economy with an underdeveloped services sector. The rural poverty incidence in the project area is about 5%. The project area has a total of 12 poverty villages (11 in Qibin district and one in Qi county), and about 4,743 poor households in Qibin district and Qi county currently receive minimum living standards subsidies or pensions. Lack of urban and rural solid-waste and wastewater facilities, low level of public awareness on sanitation and environmental and ecological protection, and lack of jobs and livelihood opportunities for local people including the poor are key impediments to poverty reduction and promoting environmental sustainability.

2. Beneficiaries. The project will benefit more than 434,806 people in the project area, of which 138,499 (31.85%) are in urban areas and 296,307 (68.15%) are in rural areas. About 113,844 households (including 77,021 rural households) will benefit from the proposed project (including the 4,743 poor households in Qibin district and Qi county).

3. Impact channels. The project will improve ecology, water quality, and biodiversity in the Qihe River, and sanitation in the communities of Qibin district and Qi county. The project will contribute to improving household income of rural and urban populations, including poor people and women, by providing local employment during the construction and operation in greening of barren hills, wetland management and rehabilitation, greening of riverbanks, and solid-waste management. The project will also help reduce diseases through public awareness campaigns on improved sanitation, river rehabilitation and greening of river banks, improved water quality, and environmental protection.

4. Other social and poverty issues. Barren hills greening, wetland management and rehabilitation, solid-waste management, and rehabilitation of river courses and channels are also expected to promote tourism in Hebi city and other project areas, and attract more investments including more local jobs and incomes including for the poor.

5. Design features. The project design directly responds to the key issues of lack of solid-waste and wastewater facilities, a low level of public awareness on sanitation and environmental protection, and lack of jobs and livelihood opportunities for local people including the poor. Key design features include (i) employment opportunities for local people including poor people during construction and operation; (ii) targeting women for capacity building and employment in skilled and unskilled jobs generated during construction and operation; (iii) strengthening community participation in implementation of relevant project components, including public awareness campaigns on solid-waste management, improved sanitation, wetland management, and environmental and biodiversity protection; engaging community groups in barren hills greening; and mobilization and capacity building of community volunteers as part-time river guards, cleaners and garbage collectors, tour guides in the wetland park, etc.; and (iv) participation of local people in public hearings on wastewater and solid-waste management (including possible tariff increase), and other decision-making processes.

II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR
1. Participatory approaches and project activities. The total number of persons consulted during the project preparatory technical assistance (TA) was 741 (31% female). Representatives from 18 government agencies were consulted and consultations were held in 26 villages within the project area. Consultations with women as well as men, village leaders, farmers, and community volunteers (i.e., river guards, cleaners) were conducted during March–July 2015.
A total of 18 consultations with government agencies including the HCG, PMO, Women’s Federation of Qibin and Qi County, Poverty Alleviation Office, Employment Bureau, and other implementing agencies were conducted. The PMO in coordination with the PIUs and implementing agencies will continue consultation and participation activities during project implementation. Capacity building activities will be conducted for men and women for their participation in project jobs generated during the construction and operation.

2. Civil society organizations. While there are no nongovernment organizations implementing programs in the project area, community-based organizations (farmers, women’s group, etc.) will be mobilized and/or engaged during project implementation. The PMO and/or PIUs will mobilize the participation of village leaders, women’s groups, schools, volunteers, and other community-based organizations in conducting public awareness campaigns on sanitation and solid-waste management, wetland management, riverbank greening and maintaining cleanliness, environmental improvement, and biodiversity protection.

3. The following forms of civil society organization participation are envisaged during project implementation, rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA).

- Information gathering and sharing (H)
- Consultation (M)
- Collaboration (M)
- Partnership

4. Participation plan.

A communication strategy and consultation and participation plan have been prepared to guide consultations and ensure meaningful participation of local people, including women, the poor, and vulnerable people.

III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Gender mainstreaming category: Effective gender mainstreaming (EGM)

A. Key issues. More than 60% of the respondents in the social survey affirmed that women performed most of the household chores (i.e., cooking, fetching water, disposing of solid waste and wastewater, cleaning, taking care of children and sick household members, and maintaining plants and gardens). Farming and business-related tasks are performed jointly by men and women. The women support the household heads (husbands) in economic activities.

The project presents the opportunity for achievement of significant benefits for women by providing employment during construction and operation. The project preparatory TA estimates that women can occupy about 30% of unskilled jobs in civil works construction and 40% of jobs in nonstructural and/or operation works, particularly in greening activities (barren hills plantation, river bank protection, wetland management), and solid-waste management.

Women can actively participate in public awareness and education programs related to environmental protection, improved sanitation and solid-waste management, biodiversity protection, and monitoring and evaluation. In solid-waste management, women and students can be mobilized and/or trained to become volunteers in conducting public awareness on sanitation and solid-waste management, and ecological and environmental protection.

B. Key actions. Gender action plan

The key activities and indicators in the GAP include (i) the proportion of women participants during project consultations is at least 40%, (ii) at least 50% of participants are women in training and community awareness (solid-waste management and sanitation, wetland management, environmental and biodiversity protection), (iii) at least 30% of people are women in unskilled labor force in engineering civil works construction and 40% in nonstructural works and/or during operation stage, (iv) relevant gender-specific clauses on core labor standards are included in the bidding documents of all contracts, and (v) records of the number of laborers hired to particular positions as well as participants in project consultation and awareness raising are disaggregated by sex.

IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES

A. Involuntary Resettlement

1. Key impacts. The project will require a total area of 4,433.10 mu of land to be permanently occupied, comprising acquisition of 1,174.23 mu of collectively owned land, leasing of 1,959.28 mu of collectively owned land, and occupation of 1,299.59 mu of state-owned land. The project will also temporarily occupy 1,557.68 mu of land. Eight rural houses and two small businesses need to be demolished. The project will affect 739 households with 3,481 people permanently affected and 515 households with 2,253 persons temporarily affected. A total of 65 households with 283 people will be significantly affected under the project.

2. Strategy to address the impacts. Six resettlement plans have been prepared and disclosed to affected people and households. Compensation for lost assets and resettlement allowances will be paid to affected people, and income restoration and livelihood rehabilitation will be arranged. The impacts are limited for most affected people, and affected people are located close to urban areas and have various options to invest the compensation in nonfarm activities, which can generate much more income than farming. The local government is very experienced with resettlement and has good capacity to support affected people.

3. Plan or other Actions.

- Resettlement plan (6 resettlement plans)
- Combined resettlement and indigenous peoples plan

B. Indigenous Peoples

Social impact matrix

No action
1. Key impacts. The project is category C for ADB indigenous peoples categorization. There are no differential impacts on any ethnic minority groups. The project does not impact any distinct and vulnerable group of indigenous peoples as defined by ADB’s Safeguard Policy Statement (2009). Is broad community support triggered? ☑ Yes ☐ No

2. Strategy to address the impacts. NA

3. Plan or other actions.

☐ Indigenous peoples plan ☐ Combined resettlement plan and indigenous peoples plan
☐ Indigenous peoples planning framework ☐ Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework
☐ Environmental and social management system arrangement ☐ Social impact matrix ☐ Indigenous peoples plan elements integrated in project with a summary
☐ No action

V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS

A. Risks in the Labor Market

1. Relevance of the project for the country’s or region’s or sector’s labor market, indicated as high (H), medium (M), and low or not significant (L).

☐ unemployment ☐ underemployment ☐ retrenchment ☒ core labor standards (L)

2. Labor market impact. The project will not have labor market impacts but some jobs will be created. During the construction stage, about 3,064 jobs will be created to provide employment opportunities for the local people, of which 919 jobs will be given to women, and 336 permanent jobs will be needed during operation, of which 134 jobs will be given to women.

B. Affordability

Affordability for the poor has been assessed on possible tariffs for the solid-waste and wastewater management subcomponent based on household income data. The analysis concluded that the connection fees and service tariffs are affordable to low-income households, and very poor households will receive a subsidy. Willingness to pay in rural areas is low and they are not currently paying tariffs. Public hearings and consultations with participation of local people (40% women) will be conducted on tariff setting for solid-waste and wastewater management. Monitoring of tariffs and impacts on the poor households will also be conducted.

C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks

1. The impact of the following risks are rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):

☒ Communicable diseases (L) ☐ Human trafficking ☐ Others (please specify) ______________

2. Risks to people in project area. The dissemination of information on HIV/AIDS in construction sites will be undertaken targeting new employees at their time of mobilization. The social development and gender specialist who will be hired by the PMO during project implementation will coordinate with the local government health agencies and the contractors to ensure that this is implemented. HIV/AIDS prevention and other communicable diseases clauses will be included in the bidding documents to ensure that the contractor provides training and/or information dissemination to all laborers hired during project implementation. As part of preventive measures, the contractors will be required to conduct training and/or information dissemination for 100% of its labor force hired during construction (civil works).

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Targets and indicators. Target indicators to ensure women’s participation during project implementation are defined in the GAP, SDAP, and design and monitoring framework.

2. Required human resources. One national resettlement specialist for updating resettlement plans, one external resettlement monitor, and one national social, gender, and community participation specialist will be hired by the PMO during project implementation.

3. Information in the PAM. The PAM outlines the main poverty, social, and gender issues and includes a GAP and SDAP. The terms of reference and budget for consultants are included in the PAM.

4. Monitoring tools. Social semiannual monitoring reports will be prepared and submitted by the PMO to ADB with the progress report. Sex-disaggregated data will be included in the monitoring tools and in reports.

ADB = Asian Development Bank, GAP = gender action plan, HCG = Hebi city government, mu = Chinese unit of measurement (1 mu = 666.67 square meters), NA = not applicable, PAM = project administration manual, PIU = project implementation unit, PMO = project management office, PRC = People’s Republic of China, SDAP = social development action plan, TA = technical assistance.

e The noncivil works of the wetland park will lease collectively owned land through the land use rights transfer system.