

## SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY

Country:	People's Republic of China	Project Title:	Jiangxi Ganzhou Rural Vitalization and Comprehensive Environment Improvement Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project loan	Department/Division:	East Asia Department / Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division

<b>I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY</b>
Poverty targeting: general Intervention
<b>A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth Strategy, and Country Partnership Strategy</b> The proposed project will tackle Ganzhou's urban and rural ecological and environmental degradation issues; improve water quality in the Gan River basin; strengthen financing mechanisms, environmental management, and pollution monitoring capacities; and improve the livelihoods and living conditions of residents. The project is consistent with the objectives of the People's Republic of China (PRC) set out in (i) Outline of the Yangtze River Economic Belt (YREB) Development Plan, 2016–2030; (ii) Yangtze River Protection Law; and (iii) National Strategic Plan for Rural Vitalization, 2018–2022. It is also consistent with the operational priorities of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Strategy 2030 as well as ADB's country partnership strategy, 2021–2025 for the PRC. <sup>a</sup> The project is aligned with the guidelines on the economic development of the YREB, issued by the State Council in 2014 to promote inclusive green development, environmental protection, and sustainable water resource management. All these plans and strategies emphasize the importance of improving the environment and the living standards in urban and rural areas.
<b>B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during Project Preparation or Due Diligence</b>
<p>1. <b>Key poverty and social issues.</b> The project will be implemented in eight counties and one district of Ganzhou municipality. In 2019, Ganzhou City had 8.7 million inhabitants and an urbanization rate of 51.85%, lower than the national (58.52%) and provincial (57.4%) averages in the same year. The female population was 4.72 million or 54.25%. In rural areas in 2019, more than 50% of the population aged 15–49 years migrated to work outside because of limited local employment and income generation opportunities. The total registered population in the project district and counties was 5.31 million: 3.98 million rural and 1.33 million urban. The social survey indicated that the main causes of poverty or low-income were (i) labor shortage because of chronic diseases, disability, or old age; (ii) lack of resources, policy support, job opportunities, and education; and (iii) lack of market information and new technologies. The government's targeted poverty reduction strategy had lifted the poor people out of extreme poverty by the end of 2020. However, they are still vulnerable to the risk of falling back into extreme poverty and are eligible to receive continued special support from the government for another 5 years.</p> <p>2. <b>Beneficiaries.</b> Of the 578,138 residents in the project areas who are identified as beneficiaries, 285,651 are women (49%) and 113,148 are vulnerable and/or low-income people (20%). They will benefit from green agricultural development, a green finance mechanism, ecotourism, improvements in rural wastewater and solid waste management as well as rural water supply, river rehabilitation, wetland restoration and soil conservation, and stronger forest protection and management. They will also benefit from employment opportunities, training, and knowledge gains during project construction and operations.</p> <p>3. <b>Impact channels.</b> The project is expected to improve the ecological environment and the quality of living in the project area by (i) enhancing ecological protection and environmental infrastructure, and diversifying economic opportunities; (ii) providing employment opportunities to residents during project construction and operation; (iii) reducing public health risks through disease control, and wastewater and solid waste management; (iv) reducing flood risks and water pollution in local rivers through river rehabilitation; (v) piloting a green development mechanism to expand and diversify the green economy; and (vi) improving water and soil conservation practices.</p> <p>4. <b>Design features.</b> Key design features are (i) promotion of public consultation and participation in environmental and ecological programs such as water quality management, solid and wastewater disposal, and soil and water conservation; (ii) targeted employment opportunities for residents, including women, the vulnerable, and low-income people; (iii) a pilot green development mechanism to empower small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and agriculture cooperatives; and (iv) mitigation of adverse impacts and maximization of positive impacts. The social and safeguard plans were developed in a consultative manner, and their implementation and monitoring are defined in the project administration manual.</p>
<b>II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR</b>
<p>1. <b>Participatory approaches and project activities that will strengthen inclusiveness.</b> Intensive consultations with local stakeholders on the project components and design standards were carried out by the executing agency, implementing agencies, and consultants during the feasibility study. Under the social survey undertaken by the transaction technical assistance (TA) consultants, more than 1,000 participants were consulted or interviewed through household questionnaires, 36 consultation meetings, 37 focus group discussions, and 48 in-depth interviews. The opinions and suggestions of participants are reflected in the social assessment and planning documents. Consultation and participation will continue during the project's implementation via (i) meetings with beneficiaries and stakeholders</p>

to discuss the detailed designs and implementation of subprojects, (ii) meetings in affected villages to help finalize and implement the safeguard plans, and (iii) timely communication and disclosure of project information among stakeholders.

2. **Civil society participation.** Civil society organizations (CSOs) include women's federations and farmers' groups and cooperatives in the project areas. They participated in the project's preparation and will also participate during the detailed design and implementation. The CSOs will be involved in public consultations, focus group discussions, meetings, and other forms of dialogue.

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

Information gathering and sharing (M)  Consultation (M)  Collaboration (NA)  Partnership (NA)

4. Participation plan.

Yes. Measures for participation are included in the project design and social plans.  No.

### III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

**Gender mainstreaming category:** effective gender mainstreaming

1. **Key issues.** The social survey indicates that women account for 49.4% of the total population in the project area. Women are burdened with family responsibilities and are engaged in low-paying jobs such as farming. Their participation in community-based decision-making and public management is rather limited. Discussions during the social survey and focus group discussions revealed that women are facing the problems of poor environmental conditions and inadequate local jobs and income generation opportunities. Women participants called for an improved ecological and living environment, as well as green development opportunities. They wanted stronger rural waste and sanitation management, and better water and soil conservation practices in the project area. Women also wanted more opportunities for training and employment in green farming and ecotourism and wished to participate during project construction and operations.

2. **Key actions.**

Gender action plan  Other actions or measures  No action or measure

A gender action plan (GAP) was prepared to ensure that women participate and benefit equitably under each output. Women are expected to benefit from better employment and income opportunities, improved living environment and working conditions, and better quality of life. The key GAP measures and targets are: (i) 40% of participants in project-related consultations and training are women, 30%–40% of project-generated jobs are made available to women, and more than 30% of participants in project monitoring are women. Key gender targets are also included in the design and monitoring framework. The executing and implementing agencies will ensure GAP implementation, monitoring, and reporting.

### IV. ADDRESSING SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES

**A. Involuntary Resettlement**

**Safeguard Category:**  A  B  C  FI

1. **Key impacts.** The project will occupy 61,379.04 *mu* of land by using 54,656.5 *mu* of state-owned land, permanently acquiring 469.53 *mu* of collective land, and using 6,253.01 *mu* of collectively owned land through voluntary agreements or land leases.<sup>b</sup> The project will also temporarily occupy 369.38 *mu* of land during construction. The land acquisition will impact 292 households (1,141 individuals) in 34 villages of 29 towns in one district and five counties. Of these, 51 households (191 individuals) will be significantly affected. No house demolition will take place. The due diligence on state-owned land and associated facilities confirmed that no outstanding or legacy issues of land acquisition and resettlement exist; it will be updated after the final design and before the approval of civil works contracts.

2. **Strategy to address the impacts.** For the project loan component, a resettlement plan was prepared in accordance with ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (2009), and relevant laws and regulations of the PRC; it will be updated after the final design and before the award of civil works contracts. The plan includes adequate compensation, resettlement, and rehabilitation measures for affected people. Affected people were surveyed and consulted during project preparation and will be further consulted before updating and implementing the resettlement plan. The plan comprises a specially established grievance redress mechanism, and also includes capacity building measures for the executing and implementing agencies to ensure that they execute the plan in compliance with ADB requirements. The financial intermediation loan component will support only subprojects categorized C for involuntary resettlement. Measures to screen and avoid involuntary resettlement impacts are incorporated in the financial intermediary's environmental and social management system.

3. Plan or other Actions.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resettlement plan                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement and indigenous peoples' plan                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement framework                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system | <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No action   |  |

<p><b>B. Indigenous Peoples</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Safeguard Category:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> FI</span></p> <p>1. <b>Key impacts.</b> The project will involve six villages with a concentration of ethnic minorities, mostly She people. These villages will benefit from training and capacity building, more jobs, proper sanitation services, ecotourism, an improved environment, and better living conditions. Is broad community support triggered? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>2. <b>Strategy to address the impacts.</b> For the project loan component, an ethnic minority development plan was drawn up based on the social analysis and consultations during project preparation. The project will strengthen the capacity of the executing and implementing agencies to execute and monitor the ethnic minority development plan during the project's implementation. For the financial intermediary loan component, screening measures for ethnic minorities are specified in the environmental and social management system.</p> <p>3. Plan or other actions.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan  <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples planning framework  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system  <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix  <input type="checkbox"/> No action         </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement plan and indigenous peoples' plan  <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework  <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan elements integrated in project with a summary         </td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples planning framework <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental and social management system <input type="checkbox"/> Social impact matrix <input type="checkbox"/> No action	<input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement plan and indigenous peoples' plan <input type="checkbox"/> Combined resettlement framework and indigenous peoples planning framework <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous peoples plan elements integrated in project with a summary
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<b>V. ADDRESSING OTHER SOCIAL RISKS</b>		
<p><b>A. Risks in the Labor Market</b></p> <p>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).  <input type="checkbox"/> unemployment <input type="checkbox"/> underemployment <input type="checkbox"/> retrenchment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> core labor standards (L)</p> <p>2. <b>Labor market impact.</b> The project will create about 2,825 jobs (1,241 jobs during construction and 1,584 jobs during operation). This includes about 1,261 skilled jobs and 1,564 unskilled jobs. The project team will include the necessary provisions in the bidding documents for contractors to ensure compliance with applicable labor regulations and core labor standards.</p>		
<p><b>B. Affordability</b></p> <p>Currently, no tariff applies for wastewater and solid waste disposal in the rural areas covered by the project. The social survey indicates that 54.35% of respondents are willing to pay for wastewater collection and treatment, and 74.67% are willing to pay for garbage disposal. As regards the water tariff, 93.62% are willing to pay up to 5% more, and the others are willing to pay up to 10% more. Key measures to ensure affordability are (i) an assessment of the impact and necessary subsidies for poor and low-income households before any tariff increase; and (ii) public hearings on tariff increase proposals, including engagement of poor and low-income households.</p>		
<p><b>C. Communicable Diseases and Other Social Risks</b></p> <p>1. The impact of the following risks are rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communicable diseases (L) <input type="checkbox"/> Human trafficking  <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify) _____</p> <p>2. <b>Risks to people in project area.</b> Some risks of communicable diseases arise from construction workers during civil works. The contractors' bidding documents will include clauses to ensure that they take preventive measures, including training and awareness raising of their personnel.</p>		
<b>VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION</b>		
<p>1. <b>Targets and indicators.</b> Social targets and indicators are included in the project's design and monitoring framework and in the respective social plans.</p> <p>2. <b>Required human resources.</b> Project executing and implementing agencies will appoint focal staff for the implementation and monitoring of social plans. The consultancy services will include inputs of social and gender specialists to support the implementation, monitoring, and reporting of social measures.</p> <p>3. <b>Information in the project administration manual.</b> The manual includes information on the implementation, monitoring, and reporting of social measures.</p> <p>4. <b>Monitoring tools.</b> Collection of secondary data, household surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews will be used as monitoring tools.</p>		

<sup>a</sup> Government of the PRC. 2016. *Outline of the Yangtze River Economic Belt Development Plan, 2016–2030*. Beijing; Government of the PRC. 2020. [Yangtze River Protection Law of the People's Republic of China](#). Beijing; Government of the PRC. 2018. *National Strategic Plan for Rural Vitalization, 2018–2022*. Beijing; ADB. 2018. *Strategy 2030: Achieving a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific*. Manila; and ADB. 2021. *Country Partnership Strategy: Transforming Partnership: People's Republic of China, 2021–2025—Toward High Quality, Green Development*. Manila.

<sup>b</sup> A *mu* is a Chinese unit of measurement (1 *mu* = 666.67 square meters).

Source: Asian Development Bank.