

SUMMARY ETHNIC MINORITIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A. Introduction

1. An ethnic minorities development plan (EMDP) was prepared to ensure equitable sharing of project benefits and to propose measures for mitigating adverse effects on minority communities in the project area (PA). Adequate provisions to enhance economic conditions of minority groups have been integrated in the project design. Special mitigating measures have been included in the resettlement plan to ensure that adversely affected ethnic minorities will also benefit from the Project. Government policies will further help enhance project benefits.

B. Socioeconomic Characteristics of Ethnic Minorities in the Project Area

2. The total minority population¹ in the PA is estimated at 1.7 million (about 90% of the total population)—higher than the provincial average of 38%. The Zhuang account for over 87% of the total population in the PA, while the Yao make up about 3%, and the Han 10%. They reside mainly in the expressway corridor (74%) and are concentrated in the county towns (69%). About 300 people, mainly of Hui nationality, live in urban towns and represent the better-off and more advanced groups. Sugarcane and fruit production are important cash income sources for farmers in the valley and hilly areas. The poverty situation of the Zhuang and Yao is relevant to their geographical remoteness, which limits access to outside markets and to external employment. Households of Zhuang (60%) and Yao (90%) have an income of less than CNY900. Information and transport are key factors for men and women to advance their social ability (Appendix 5).

C. Legal Framework and Project Benefits

3. The EMDP for the Project is based on the People's Republic of China (PRC) regulations and Asian Development Bank (ADB) *Policy on Indigenous Peoples*. The Government adopted a policy of ethnic equality post-1949 where all groups are legally and constitutionally equal. ADB policy aims to protect ethnic minorities from the adverse impacts and to ensure benefits from project development. The Project fully mainstreams ethnic minorities' concerns into its design, as these people are considered one of the primary beneficiaries. The local roads program was designed to benefit the isolated minorities and poor. Significant project impacts include tourism and roadside stations development, higher farm prices of goods, accessibility, and enhanced communication with urban centers (Table A17). The Project is not expected to have any adverse impacts on minorities, except for land acquisition.

D. Implementation Arrangements

4. Implementation arrangements and the associated costs for the EMDP have been integrated into the overall project arrangements, or are part of ongoing government programs. Resettlement assistance for vulnerable households is budgeted at 1% of the total basic resettlement cost. The overall project system includes monitoring and evaluating the EMDP and hiring an independent domestic agency for external monitoring. Ethnic minority beneficiaries will participate in project implementation. The ADB midterm review will pay special attention to ethnic minority groups. If necessary, adjustments will be made during the Project to better meet ethnic minority needs.

¹ Ethnic minority groups refer to groups that are different from the majority ethnic group—the Han.

Table A17: Ethnic Minorities Action Plan

Proposed Measures	Targets/Indicators	Beneficiaries	Budget (CNY '000)	Timing
Protection of communities from construction disturbances	Prohibiting nighttime construction Building 383 grade-separated crossings Repairing damaged irrigation systems	Over 180,000 minority people from 503 sub-villages	Included in the Project	2005–2007
Control of transmissible diseases	Health clinics in construction camps Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and HIV/AIDS and STD prevention programs	Minority residents Over 30,000 migrant construction workers	Included in the Project	2005–2007
Special support to resettlement-affected people	1% of resettlement budget reserved for vulnerable groups Options for affected households 6 months notice time for affected households to select new resettlement sites Training by minority trainers Refunding land reclamation and forestry taxes to affected area	2,100 ethnic minority households (8,100 persons)	Included in resettlement plan and Government programs	2004–2005
Minority village roads	500 km village roads in 120 villages	225,000 minority population	75,000 in project	2005–2008
Construction of biogas digesters	10,000 digesters	45,000 minority people	10,000 Poverty Fund	2005–2007
Microcredit	120 villages, mostly to rural women	225,000 rural minority population	25,000 (ABC)	2005–2007
New farmland reclamation	+120 villages; 40,000 mu of farmland	80,000 rural poor	81,000 tax rebate	2005–2007
Forestation	Selected poverty villages 1,200 mu of orchards/forest planted	6,000 rural people	4,600 Tax rebate	2005–2006
Agricultural inputs (training and crop production)	120 rural villages Minority trainers	225,000 minority population	Covered by local programs	2005–2007
Employment of minorities	Over 800,000 person-months unskilled labor for expressway and intercounty roads construction (90% of total unskilled labor required) Contractors use minimum 75% of local labor	200,000 minority labor (avg. 4 months each)	None, Guangxi Comm. Dept. (GCD) and contractors	2005–2007
Employment of minorities for village road construction	2,000 workers	9,000 people from 2,000 households	Included in cost of village roads	2005–2007
Support the Ganzhuang Folk Song Fair	Over 200,000 local people	300,000 residents and visitors	2,000 Tianyang government	2005 onwards

ABC = Agriculture Bank of China, avg = average, comm. = communications, dept. = department, GCD = Guangxi Communications Department, HIV/AIDS = human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, mu = land measurement unit, STD = sexually transmitted diseases.
Source: Asian Development Bank and GCD estimates.