

TA COMPLETION REPORT

Division: ENVD

TA NO. /NAME: TA No. 2078-CAM: Strengthening Environmental Impact Assessment Procedures and Capabilities				TA AMOUNT APPROVED: \$550,000	SOURCE: JSF
EXECUTING AGENCY: Ministry of Environment (MOE)				REVISED AMOUNT: \$550,000	
				TA AMOUNT UNDISBURSED: \$48,886.53	TA AMOUNT UTILIZED: \$501,113.47
DATE: 30 Jan 1998	APPROVAL: 13 Apr 1994	SIGNING: 18 Aug 1994	FIELD: 15 Oct 1995	CLOSING ORIGINAL: 30 Apr 1997 ACTUAL: 30 Apr 1997	

TA DESCRIPTION (Background/Rationale)

The TA was the Bank's first environmental ADTA in Cambodia, using Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as a bridgehead in the institutional strengthening of the Ministry of Environment which recently had been upgraded from a secretariat status to a ministry. Trainees were also invited from other relevant governmental agencies, and training case studies were selected from their everyday activities so that the TA contributed to improved environmental administration and governance in the country. The Project was carried out by the International Development Research Centre, a non-profit Canadian organization which had an office in Phnom Penh at the time when the TA was established, in cooperation with Global Environmental Consulting Ltd. and Resource Futures International Ltd.

TA OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

The main objective of the TA was to assist the Government strengthen its institutional and human resource capacity to prepare and implement environmental plans and to establish management framework involving the use of EIA and regional environmental planning. The objective was accomplished by providing on-the-job training and short courses for officials from MOE and other selected agencies, and by preparing several EIA case studies. The scope of the TA included (i) assistance to MOE in developing and refining regulations and guidelines for the EIA process; (ii) expert advisory assistance on regional environmental planning; (iii) preparation of EIA case studies; (iv) refining, improving, and developing further guidelines and manuals; (v) structured on-the-job training for Government counterparts in the central and provincial offices of MOE; (vi) developing and presenting two short courses utilizing case studies; (vii) organizing workshops; and (viii) preparation of a five-year environmental human resources development plan. The last item was amended during contract negotiations to cover a detailed plan for MOE and outlines for the sector.

TA INPUTS EVALUATION

Expert advisors were in field by October 1995, equipment purchases were made, and the EIA training course opened. Classroom training on concepts and tools of regional environmental development planning took place as scheduled in November 1995. A coastal development case study was selected for this portion of the training, with full support of MOE and officials in Koh Kong province. Classroom lectures continued on elements of EIA practice and methods through February and March 1996. At the same time, four EIA case studies were prepared. Institutional development strategies included ongoing advice to the MOE, and regular contacts with the Cambodia Development Council (CDC) on project review and approval procedures. As part of the institutional development component, the consultants

worked with MOE to develop an organizational structure and workplan for the newly formalized EIA Department. Donor coordination with UNDP and USAID was an integral aspect of project delivery. Review missions were fielded in schedule for the inception and final tripartite meetings. Interim review was carried out by telefaxes. Performance of the consultants was excellent, and their work was cost-efficient.

TA OUTPUTS EVALUATION

All objectives of the TA were achieved. Inception report, interim report, and final report were submitted as scheduled, and the EIA training material was edited and distributed in Khmer language. The reports were of good professional quality. The 38 trainees who attended the 16-week training course became the core of Cambodian human resources for environmental management. The capacity of MOE and other agencies involved to address EIA needs was strengthened as planned. An EIA Department was established in MOE, and the new Law for Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Management was passed by the National Assembly during the project. The training case studies, having been selected from practical workfield of the ministries involved, contributed to the environmental management of those projects. The trainees were well-motivated and active, and most of them are still on governmental service making the capacity building sustainable.

TA OVERALL ASSESSMENT/RATING

The objectives of the TA have been substantially met and the TA was implemented more or less in accordance with the implementation schedule envisaged. The TA is assessed as generally successful. It contributed essentially to the institutional capacity of MOE and other agencies involved to address environmental impact assessment requirements of development projects in Cambodia. Practical application of EIA, participatory approach, and the Bank's other environmental policy were promoted. MOE was provided with technical capacity to take responsibility for administering environmental impact assessment procedures. Seminars on environmental issues were well-attended with the highest level of Governmental support. Collaboration with the donor community was sound.

MAJOR LESSONS LEARNED

Consultants who were already established in Phnom Penh appeared to be an important advantage, as their office was able to support the logistics required for the TA. Lack of materials in local language was addressed by translating the training manual into Khmer, which improved the impact of the TA. Translation and distribution of materials in Khmer language, and the selection of training case studies from practical workfield of ministries involved, contributed to both improved environmental management of the selected projects as well as resulted in improved environmental administration and governance in the country.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As institutional capacity building requires a long term approach, the next step was programmed and has been started, with focus on expanding EIA capacity to line ministries (TA No. 2723-CAM). Further support to environmental capacity of the government of Cambodia is recommended in the form of ADTAs, and environmental components of loan projects, particularly for EIA and data management. Another important part of the Bank's activity in promoting environmentally sound development in Cambodia are subregional technical assistance together with other Mekong-countries. This type of assistance will be needed by Cambodia for the foreseeable future. Stakeholder analysis and strengthening the environmental capacity of non-governmental sector will be addressed as appropriate.