

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division: PAHQ

TA No., Country and Name			Amount Approved: \$500,000	
TA 6319-REG: Pilot Strengthening of Civil Society Participation in Development in the Pacific			Revised Amount: \$500,000	
Executing Agencies: Pacific Centre for Resource Concerns (PCRC); and Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (PIANGO)		Source of Funding  TASF	Amount Undisbursed:  \$83,269.86	Amount Utilized:  \$416,730.14
TA Approval Date:  28 Apr 2006	TA Signing Date:  11 Oct 2006	Fielding of First Consultant:  20 Sep 2006	TA Completion Date Original: 31 Dec 2007  Account Closing Date Original: 31 Dec 2007	Actual: 30 Jun 2009  Actual: 31 Dec 2009
<b>Description</b> A 2004 study on ADB-NGO relations in the Pacific expected ADB to be more involved in strengthening and legitimizing civil society and increasing civic engagement in development processes at the national and regional levels. Three of the 5 actions proposed were for ADB to: (i) build the capacity of civil society; (ii) ensure the full participation of CSOs and the integration of civil society issues in the country strategy and program (CSP); and (iii) enhance the participation of CSOs in project preparation, implementation, and evaluation. The review further stated that in some countries "ADB is ideally positioned to strengthen civil society by facilitating dialogue and creating space" for greater cooperation between governments, external funding agencies, and CSOs. Other external funding agencies have long been working with Pacific CSOs in strengthening both service delivery and advocacy.				
<b>Expected Impact, Outcome and Outputs</b> The original intended impact of the pilot TA was to provide sustained improvement in the level of civil society participation in public policy formulation and in development programs, and more vigorous community-based discussion of development policy in four pilot Pacific developing member countries. The outcome would be civil societies that are more aware of development policy, CSOs that are more effective in advocacy, and best participatory practices established, leading to increased civil society demand for development, improved government, donor and civil society collaboration and greater acceptance of the role of civil society in development. Anticipated TA outputs were: (i) advice on and improved understanding of development policy, institutions and best practices among CSO leaders and staff and government staff; (ii) CSO and government staff trained in participatory process planning and ADB development cycle and processes; (iii) regular dialogue between government and CSO leaders institutionalized; and (iv) full CSO participation in 2 ADB CSP formulations and 2 ADB loan designs.				
<b>Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities</b> The first component focused on enhancing the competence of Pacific CSO staff to better understand and comment on the region's broad development policy agendas. This was conducted in the form of four policy workshops held in the Fiji Islands. Participation was somewhat limited in the first 3 workshops. This was largely due to the political circumstances in Fiji Islands with military rule limiting CSO coverage to regional CSOs. The last workshop held immediately after civil society (and development partner) discussion of the draft Pacific Strategy was much better attended. Workshops were all well conducted and well received according to the participant evaluations.  The second component consisted of formal training for CSO and government staff in planning of participatory processes, together with practical engagement with ADB, other external funding agencies, and other members of civil society and government in the participatory formulation of the next two ADB country strategies and programs (CSPs) in 2007 (for Fiji Islands and Samoa), and two loan designs (PNG Health Sector Support and FSM Waste Management) also scheduled for 2007. The TA struggled to commence with false starts in all the proposed activities. This component eventually commenced in support of the FSM CPS and concurrent formulation of FSM State level development priorities in 2008 and support to the formulation of the Pacific regional Strategy in 2009. The former support to FSM formulation of development priorities was supposed to continue in support of prioritization at national level but this did not materialize for reasons unknown. A participatory processes workshop was also held in FSM. This latter workshop was well attended and well received. TA design should have been more flexible in selection of ADB activities.  Two consultants were fielded: (i) domestic research economist; and (ii) international consulting firm to undertake				

overall TA activities. The consultants generally performed well. The TA took 2 years and 8 months to complete; that is 1 year and 6 months beyond intended completion. Some consultants/team members had to be replaced but replacements also performed well.

Performance of consultants, EA and ADB was satisfactory.

#### **Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome**

TA outputs improved in time, once the project got started, with latter contributions to FSM and Regional Strategy highly effective and later workshops on participatory processes and the last development policy workshop in Fiji Islands also highly effective. All workshops were carefully and well prepared. All consultancy performances were largely efficient. The TA firm experienced some problems coming up to speed with ADB processes and procedures but consultancy firm management and consultants performed very effectively in country as was later witnessed by PARD management as well as staff. All reports were very well prepared. While the TA strengthened dialogue between government and CSOs, it cannot be said that this has reached the point of institutionalization. While policy workshops improved CSO capacity and competence, there are no examples of where or whether this has been translated into better participation in CSP formulations and loan designs to finalization. The TA has led to better understanding between participating governments and CSO representatives, and it has also helped to demystify the ADB in the eyes of many of these stakeholders, therefore opening options for further engagement.

TA outputs were generally well received by clients with the exception of the lack of support by FSM EA to continue CPS and national planning formulation to national government level.

#### **Overall Assessment and Rating**

Despite delayed start and some implementation problems, overall, the TA was partly successful.

#### **Major Lessons**

As ADB's CPS, loan and grant pipeline in the Pacific fluctuates greatly, TA design should have been more flexible, allowing for ADB as EA to self select at time of implementation.

#### **Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions**

PDMC participants have strongly recommended that ADB finance a follow-on regional TA to further support civil society engagement in development strategy, policy and project formulation.

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