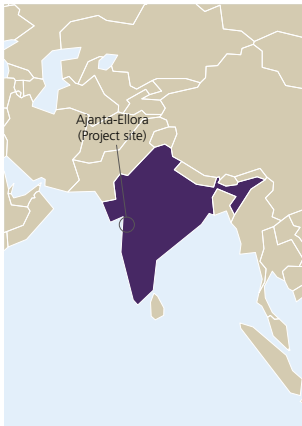


Overall Rating **B** A Foundation for Sustained Growth
Global Issues and Peace-building



28 India
Ajanta-Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project (1)

Contributing to the promotion of tourism and the economic revitalization of surrounding areas through the conservation of world heritage and the improvement and development of tourism infrastructure

Loan Amount / Disbursed Amount 3,745 billion yen / 3,745 billion yen
Loan Agreement January 1992
Terms & Conditions 2.6% interest rate, 30 year repayment period (10 year grace period), General untied
Final Disbursement Date March 2002
Executing Agency Ministry of Tourism and Culture (<http://www.tourisminindia.com/>)
 (Seven agencies including the Maharashtra Tourist Development Corporation (MTDC) and the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) are in charge of the respective components of the project)



Project Objectives

The objective of this project was to promote the tourism industry through conservation, improvement of the surrounding natural environment, and infrastructure development in and around the Ajanta and Ellora rock-cut cave temples, a World Heritage Site in the state of Maharashtra, and thereby contribute to vitalization of the local economy.

Effectiveness and Impact

Rating **a**

Despite some amendments to plans, work undertaken to preserve the historic site contributed to reducing deterioration of the caves. The installation of optic fiber lighting made it possible to open the caves to the public while preserving its mural paintings, and the laying of drainage canals reduced the flow of water over the cave surface (see the thematic evaluation on page 57). Infrastructure for tourism promotion, including roads and airport improvements, development of water supply and sewage system as well as electricity transmission facilities were conducted according to plan. Trees planted to improve the natural environment of the areas surrounding the heritage site also achieved favorable survival rates of 72% and 85% in two of the three afforested areas after a period of three years. Furthermore, in efforts to improve tourism facility operations, low-pollution diesel buses were introduced, pamphlets were prepared for the public, informational signs were placed, landscaping works were undertaken, and a feed-water system was installed. The overall impact of the project was reflected in a growth in tourism revenue from 2.7 billion rupees before the project to 3.4 billion rupees after implementation of the project. The project is contributing to the revitalization of the local economy and has largely achieved its objectives, thus its effectiveness is highly satisfactory.

Relevance

Rating **a**

This project has been highly relevant with India's national policies both at the time of the appraisal and at the time of ex-post evaluation. The second phase of the project is now ongoing, aiming at the preservation of the surrounding cave temples and further improvement in tourism facilities.

Efficiency

Rating **b**

Although project costs were lower than planned (92% of planned costs), the project period was much longer than planned (205% of planned period), and therefore, the evaluation for efficiency is moderate. Main reasons for the delay were inadequate communication and coordination among the relevant agencies and the prolonged approval process for various construction works.

Sustainability

Rating **b**

Though some problems have been observed in terms of the lack of specialist knowledge of staff in the operation and maintenance (O&M) of the water works and an inadequate O&M budget, sustainability of this project is moderate.

Conclusion, Lessons Learned, Recommendation

In light of the above, this project is evaluated to be highly satisfactory. For projects involving a number of related organizations to be implemented efficiently, careful consideration should be given to a mechanism for coordination. The training of human resources should also be incorporated as part of the project for sustained effectiveness. It is hoped that these lessons learned will be reflected in the second phase of the project.



Drainage system above the Ajanta caves



Afforestation around Ajanta historic site



Eco-bus operating in Ajanta historic site area

Third-Party Opinion

Its initiatives in enhancing the comfort and convenience of tourists and its consideration of the mural paintings through the use of optic fiber lights is recognized. However, judging from international standards, it should be noted that there is some room for improvement.

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 Doctor of philosophy from Guru Nanak Dev University. Currently freelance journalist. Former member of the upper house of Parliament, former high commissioner to the United Kingdom, and former UN representative. Specializes in foreign diplomacy.