

Ex-ante Evaluation

1. Name of the Project

Country: India

Project Title: Capacity Development for Forest Management and Personnel Training Project

Loan Agreement: November 21, 2008

Loan Amount: 5,241 million Yen

Borrower: The President of India

2. Background and Necessity of the Project

At the start of the 20th Century, roughly 40% of India's land was covered in forest, but as 2005, India's forest and tree cover ratio¹ stood at 23.4%, much below the global average of 30.3% (2005). Many people, including the poor, depend on the forest as a source of feed for animals, fuel, and income, and as a result of recent increases in population, degradation of the forest is increasing. As a result, in addition to a loss of forest resources, the capacity of the forest's soil to retain water is decreasing, adversely impacting availability of agricultural/drinking water, pressuring the daily lives of the poor whose livelihoods depend on the forest and in turn accelerating burden on the forest, resulting in a vicious circle. Also, the percentage of open forest² in India is high – 42.4% (2003) – and the forest is not able to perform its functions sufficiently. Improving the quality of the forest (reducing the percentage of open forest) and increasing the total forested area are two of the most important issues faced by the Forestry Sector in India.

In its Eleventh Five Year Plan (April 2007 – March 2012) the Indian Government has outlined a goal of increasing India's forest and tree cover ratio by 5%. Additionally in this plan, in addition to regenerating degraded forest land, emphasis has been placed on promotion of Joint Forest Management (JFM) with participation from residents to achieve sustainable forest management, and support for persons dependent on the forest to find alternative sources of income. Further, to implement sustainable forest management, the plan also targets the introduction of IT systems and people development.

In the "Japan's Country Assistance Program for India" prepared by the Japanese Government in May 2006, "Poverty Reduction and Environment Improvement" has been set down as a major goal, and the Plan clearly states that assistance should be

¹ Forest and tree cover ratio is the ratio of forest (land with a crown ratio (coverage ratio of tree leaves on the ground in a specific block) above 10% greater than 1ha that can be surveyed by satellite) and trees (land with a crown ratio above 10% less than 1ha that can't be surveyed by satellite) within the total target area (i.e. the total area of India).

² Forest with a crown ration of less than 40% is called open forest, and that greater than 40% dense forest. The percentage of open forest is the ratio of open forest within the entire forest area.

provided to the Forest Sector from the perspective of preventing soil degradation/erosion and improving resident living standards. Accordingly, JICA has set down “Support for Environment / Climate Change Measures” as a major assistance area, and will support measures to prevent soil degradation and soil water retention ability and bio-diversity through restoration of degraded forest and improvements in forest size and quality for the sake of preservation and sustainable use of natural resources. This project complies with these goals.

Since the 90's, JFM has been a key pillar of forest preservation plans in India, but prior to 1990, State Forest Departments performed forest management that excluded involvement from local residents under the goal of environmental preservation, and insufficient consideration was given to sustainable improvement of local residents standard of living. The role of forest officers³ in the State Forestry Departments has changed from one of exclusive management to a position involving cooperation with local residents. Frontline staff have been asked to promote local residents proactive participation in forest preservation efforts and transfer the necessary skills for forest preservation, but this has not been reflected adequately in their training courses. Further, the training facilities located in 63 locations throughout India do not have the required facilities for full-scale training, mainly due to inadequate state budget allocations. Accordingly, for capacity development of frontline staff such as learning required knowledge and skills for forest preservation and popularization techniques for JFM promotion, both training content and training facilities require improvement. Therefore, there is a high level of necessity and relevance for JICA to support this project that aims to strengthen forest management structure based around JFM and develop personnel that can contribute to raising living standards for the poor as well as regenerating forests.

3. Project Description

(1) Project Objectives

This project will contribute to improvement of training environment for frontline staff through the rehabilitation of State Forest Training Institutions and through capacity development of frontline forestry staff putting emphasis on thereby strengthening human resource development for sustainable forest management.

(2) Project Site / Target Area

Planned to target 10 states selected by the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests from the perspectives of natural / social environment, effectiveness of training and popularization of JFM, etc.

³ Officers of the central government's Indian Forest Service (IFS) are in charge of central and state forest administration. Furthermore, within each state, the State Forest Service is in charge of state forest administration, staffed by Forest Range Officers, and Foresters and Forest Guards are in charge of forest management in the field. Foresters and Forest Guides are called “frontline Staff”.

(3) Project Outline

This project will improve the training capacity of frontline staff through the creation of a training improvement plan covering improvements in training content, hiring plans and facility repair and construction plan for state forest officer training organizations. This plan will be based on training guidelines updated by state governments based on training guidelines for frontline staff issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

- 1) Support for development of a forest management training structure (development of training guidelines, etc.)
- 2) Repair and construction of forest officer training organization facilities
- 3) Training implementation
- 4) Management Unit for Project

(4) Total Project Costs/Loan Amount

5,910 million Yen (Including 5,241 million Yen in Japanese ODA loans)

(5) Project Implementation Schedule

Planned for September 2008 ~ December 2013 (Total 64 months). Project will be considered complete when forest management training structure setup support and support for project management unit have completed.

(6) Project Implementation Structure

- 1) Borrower: The President of India
- 2) Executing Agency : Ministry of Environment and Forests
- 3) Operation / Maintenance: Same as 2) above. Operation and Maintenance of State Training Institutions will be conducted by each state Forest Department.

(7) Environmental/social awareness / poverty reduction / social development

1) Environmental/social awareness

- a) Category: B
- b) Reasons for categorization: The project is not likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment under Environmental Guidelines in terms of its characteristics.
- c) Environmental Permit: Preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for this project is not required under Indian law.
- d) Anti-Pollution Measures: Consideration to noise pollution will be given during repair and construction of state training institution facilities.
- e) Natural Environment: Repair and construction of state training institution facilities will not be performed in national parks and government protected areas, and it is expected that adverse environmental impact will be kept to a minimum.
- f) Social Environment: This project will be implemented on land owned by State Forest Department, and will not require land purchase or resident relocation.
- g) Other/Monitoring: As part of this project, the State Forest Department will

monitor noise during construction as required.

- 2) Promotion of Poverty Reduction: The model training syllabus for forest officers that will be updated as part of this project includes learning on Joint Forest Management for forest area residents and practical measurements for regional development for the purpose of preventing excessive dependence on forest resources. It is hoped that through activities by frontline staff to create income opportunities and the creation of self-help groups, the living standards of poor residents dependent on forest resources for their livelihood can be improved.
- 3) Promotion of Social Development (Gender, AIDS and other infectious disease measures, participative development, disability awareness, etc.): The training to be provided by this project will provide frontline staff with a chance to learn about JFM and methods for regional development, and support forest area residents in obtaining a sustainable source of income. Construction standards will include requirements for the repair and construction of state training institution facilities to pay attention to use by female forest officers (lodging, toilets, etc.) as their number is increasing in recent years.

(8) Cooperation with Other Donors.

None

(9) Other Important Issues

This project will contribute to forest preservation / climate change measures by improving forest management capability.

4. Outcome Targets

(1) Evaluation Indicators (Operation and Effect Indicator)

Indicator	Target (2013) [At project completion]
Rate of utilization of training facilities (%)	77.5* ¹ * ²
Number of forest officers receiving training during project period (master trainers, state forest officer organization trainers and forest officers) (persons)	1,750* ¹
Training participation rate of forest female staffs (%)	100* ¹

*1 This index will be confirmed after training improvement plans submitted by the state governments have been approved by the central government review.

*2 This index will be assessed two years after project completion.

(2) Internal Rate of Return

This project is aimed at increasing the quality of training of forest officers in the State Forest Departments selected by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and

quantitative Internal Rates of Return cannot be calculated.

5. External Factors / Risk Control

Changes in safety conditions of the target states.

6. Lessons Learned from Findings of Similar Projects Undertaken in the Past

In past ex-post evaluations, suggestions have been made for improvements to the JFM scheme, and we have learnt that issues faced by JFM include the necessity for regular follow-ups on forest area residents by state Forest Departments, training and an increase in capacity to provide training to forest area residents on reducing dependence on forest resources. We have mandated inclusion of training on forest management techniques for resident involvement by the frontline staff of State Forest Departments.

7. Future Evaluation Plan

(1) Indicators to be Used in Future Evaluations

- 1) Rate of utilization of training facilities (%)
- 2) Number of forest officers receiving training during project period (persons)
- 3) Training participation rate of forest field staffs(%)

(2) Timing of Future Evaluations

2 years after project completion

End