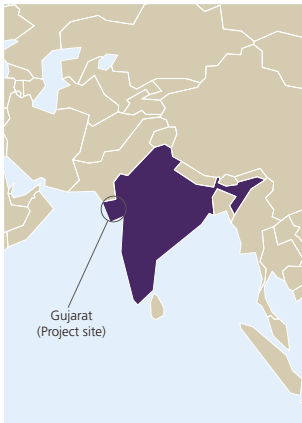


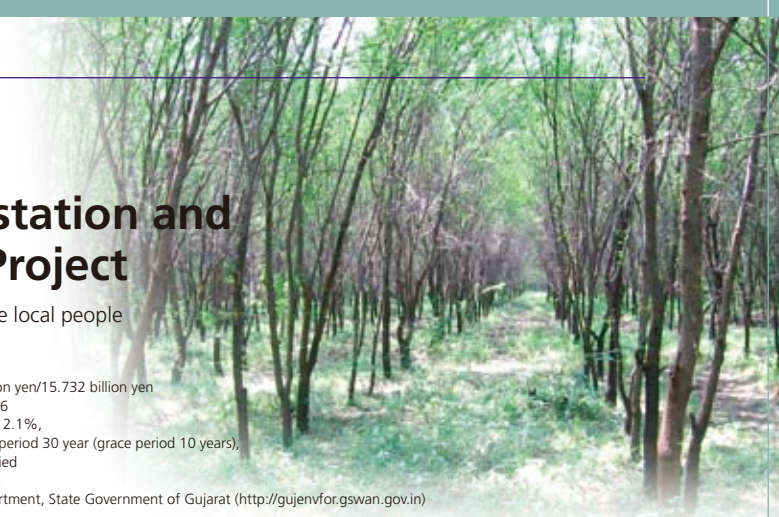
Overall Rating **B** Poverty Reduction
Global Issues and Peace-building



34 India
Gujarat Afforestation and Development Project

Improving the living standard of the local people by planting 390 million trees

Loan Amount/Disbursed Amount 15.670 billion yen/15.732 billion yen
Loan Agreement January 1996
Terms & Conditions Interest rate 2.1%,
Repayment period 30 year (grace period 10 years),
General untied
March 2004
Final Disbursement Date
Executing Agency Forest Department, State Government of Gujarat (<http://gujenvfor.gswan.gov.in>)



Project Objectives

This project's objective was to green Gujarat state and restore productivity of the deteriorated land by conducting afforestation activities mainly at the degraded forests, thereby improving environment and improve the living standard of the local people.

Effectiveness & Impact

Rating **b**

Through this project, approximately 390 million trees were planted. Because a number of natural disasters, such as drought, typhoons, and an earthquake occurred in Gujarat State during the time that the project had being implemented, the average survival rate of trees four to six years after planting was only approximately 30%. The afforested area through this project was 60% of the reforested area in whole Gujarat. Assuming that the afforested land does eventually become forestland, the project will have the effect to increase forest coverage ratio in the state by 0.9%. Wildlife has increased in the project area so, in terms of environmental conservation, this project has had some measure of success. Moreover, the afforestation project has helped contribute to social and economic development by increasing employment opportunities, including short-term employment. Therefore, this project has brought certain effects, and its effectiveness is moderate.



Change in vegetation on denuded state-owned forest land prior (above) and after (below) the project.



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 the ex-post evaluation. Both India's National Forest Policy (at the time of appraisal) and Tenth Five-Year Plan (at the time of ex-post evaluation) emphasized the importance of set targets for increasing forest coverage. The importance of this project is thus high.

Efficiency

Rating **a**

Both project period and costs were almost as planned, therefore, efficiency of the project is high. While costs slightly exceeded the original plan by some 4%, considering that planted area exceeded the plan by 15%, efficiency can be considered high.

Sustainability

Rating **b**

Though some problems have been observed in terms of necessity for improvement of the planning, evaluation and monitoring system for forestation project and the training system for the executing agency, sustainability of this project is moderate.

Conclusion, Lessons Learned, Recommendation

In light of the above, this project is evaluated to be satisfactory. One of the lessons learned from this project is that some measurements based on indicators should be taken to measure tree growth not only survival rates, and a system needs to be prepared to evaluate and monitor the work.

The recommendations for the executing agency are improvement of their planning method for afforestation projects, involvement of local people in the forestation activity, capacity building of the forest department personnel, and establishment of policies to ensure effectiveness of forestation projects are continually realized in the future.

Third-Party Opinion

While there remain problems with fuelwood production and survival rates, overall the project can be highly evaluated. In future, while aiming to improve the capacities of the executing agency, strengthening joint forest management (JFM), and promoting human empowerment, they should strive to continually manifest positive effect.

Name of specialist: Mr. Vinod Kumar (NGO)
Master's degree in sociology and public policy from the University of Calcutta. At present, in addition to working as a representative for the Maithri, NGO, is also a member on the committee to devolve power to regional governments. Specializes in water supply in villages and watershed management.