External Evaluator: Kenji Momota

Overall Rating B
Poverty Reduction
Global Issues and Peace-building

49 Mexico

Mexico Metropolitan Area Reforestation Project

Planting trees in the Mexican Metropolitan Area
and contributing to the purification of polluted air

Loan Amount/Disbursed Amount	10.403 billion yen/7.945 billion yen
Loan Agreement	October 1992
Terms & Conditions	Interest rate 5.0% (consulting service portion 3.25%), Repayment period 25 year (grace period 7 years), General untied
Final Disbursement Date	February 2004
Executing Agency	Mexico Federal District Ministry of the Environment (http://www.df.gob.mx)

Project Objectives

The objective of this project was to construct nursery grounds in the southern Mexico Metropolitan Area and plant trees in an area totaling 55,600ha, thereby increasing the area of forested land, purifying the air through reducing airborne pollutants in the metropolitan area, and thereby contributing to the improvement of residents' lives and livelihoods.

Effectiveness & Impact   Rating a

This project was initially planned for the planting of approximately 91,000,000 trees on land totaling 55,600ha. However, the lack of project participation from the states of Mexico and Morelos necessitated a change in project plans, resulting in about 62,840,000 trees planted on approximately 32,700ha, both figures a reduction of initial plans. During the period of implementation, policy was adopted to prevent the spread of forest fires. As a result, seedlings had a survival rate of 63%, a rate high even by the international standard of 50%. Results of this project's effectiveness with the purification of polluted air were still inconclusive at the time of ex-post evaluation. However, comparing TSP (Total Suspended Particulates) concentrations (maximum annual value) for Mexico City before project implementation (1988) and after project implementation (2004) finds a reduction of approximately 70%, allowing this project to be considered as having contributed to a part of air pollution reduction in the metropolitan area. Therefore, the implementation of this project has largely achieved its objectives, and effectiveness was highly satisfactory.

Relevance   Rating a

Both at the time of appraisal and the time of ex-post evaluation, the implementation of this project has been highly relevant with national policies.

Image of Beneficiary Survey

Efficiency   Rating c

Project expenses slightly exceeded the plan (approximately 105% of the initial plan), and the period was much longer than planned (approximately 168% of the initial plan). Therefore the evaluation for efficiency is low. Causes of project delays included: postponements to project starting date and procurement procedures due to a change in executing agency; suspension of works due to natural disasters caused by the El Niño phenomenon in 1997–98; and additional time required to coordinate with the local governments involved, following a change of government.

Sustainability   Rating a

Sustainability of this project is high, as there are no problems with either the technical level or organizational operation capabilities of the agency responsible for project maintenance, the Commission for Natural Resources and Rural Development (a bureau of the Ministry of the Environment, the executing agency). As a part of its forestation maintenance activities the Commission has vested citizens with incentives connected to survival rates, promoted a forestry preservation mindset in the community, and adopted policy to cultivate the ability to operate and maintain the forests.

Conclusion, Lessons Learned, Recommendation

In light of the above, the rating for this project is high. Recommendations include increasing the survival rate and working to prevent forest fires caused by fires set to clear land for livestock grazing. It is hoped the executing agency will establish an educational and awareness campaign for stock farmers concerning systematic development of pasturage.

Third-Party Opinion

This project increased social awareness through the promotion of environmental education and has had the secondary effect of vesting landowners with a sense of responsibility for the environment. The adoption of policy that promotes the active participation of landowners in the project and the reduction of forest fires are anticipated.

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