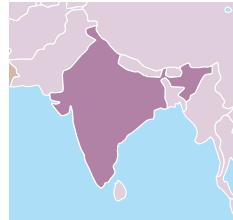




# Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project

Contributing to the prevention of degradation and the regeneration of degraded forests, and livelihood improvements through participatory afforestation

Asia **India**

## [External evaluator]

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### Rating

Effectiveness, Impact	a	Overall rating <b>A</b>
Relevance	a	
Efficiency	a	
Sustainability	b	

### Project Objectives

To prevent the degradation of forests, regenerate already degraded ones, conserve biodiversity, and increase forest productivity by implementing sustainable, community-participatory afforestation (tree-planting, extension activities, etc.) in Karnataka State, thereby contributing to a better environment and poverty reduction in the region.

### Outline of the Loan Agreement

- Loan amount / disbursed amount: 15,968 million yen / 14,831 million yen
- Loan agreement: February 1997
- Terms and conditions: 2.1% interest rate; 30-year repayment period (including a 10-year grace period); general untied
- Final disbursement date: May 2005
- Executing agency: Karnataka Forest Department, Government of Karnataka
- Website URL: <http://karnatakaforest.gov.in>

## Effects of Project Implementation (Effectiveness, Impact)

Under this project, some 340 million trees were planted in a total area of 557,870 ha in 2007 which outperformed the initial target of 470,500 ha. The project also made some contribution to improved forest productivity. For example, the annual production of fuel wood increased some 20 percent from 196 million rupees at the time of the appraisal to 235 million rupees, as shown in the table below.

As for the impact of this project, a number of effects have been noted, including a better local environment through water source conservation and increases in soil water content, and poverty reduction through the reduced amount of labor required for collecting fuel wood and fodder (lower branches and leaves).

Through this project, Joint Forest Management (JFM), a participatory forest management was implemented. JFM initiatives included the afforestation planning that accommodates community needs through the village forest committees (VFCs) set up by local residents for the consultation with the state forestry department, the executing agency, and other operation and maintenance of the forest area managed by VFC. Intensified training for forest department officials and collaboration with NGOs both resulted in better coordination between the VFCs and the forest department under JFM.

Therefore, this project has largely achieved its objectives and its effectiveness is high.

## Relevance

This project has been highly relevant with India's national policies and development needs at the times of both appraisal and ex-post evaluation. The importance of afforestation was well recognized in Karnataka State at the time of project planning. This recognition remains relevant at the time of the ex-post evaluation (date of 2005) and special emphasis is placed on the need for regenerating degraded forests as the state forest coverage still stands at 21%; below the national average of 23%.

## Efficiency

The project period was much longer than planned (167% of the planned period). However, the total area afforested surpassed the planned area by 19% with project costs lower than planned (93% of planned costs); therefore the efficiency of the project is high. The period extension was due to the additional afforestation.

## Sustainability

Some problems have been observed in its financial sustainability which is unclear partly because the scale of the forest development fund (an important financial source for the reforestation, operation and maintenance) fluctuates depending on the yields of forest products as well as on seasonal factors. However, no major problems have been observed with the organizational and technical aspects of the project; therefore sustainability of this project is fair.

## Conclusion, Lessons Learned, Recommendations

In light of the above, this project is evaluated to be highly satisfactory. A major lesson learned is that support for livelihood improvement activities right after afforestation activities has proved effective as a temporary measure until the forests produce adequate benefits. A major recommendation is that the sustainability of the forest development fund should be studied from a financial perspective.

## Annual production volume and value of the forest products

Forest products	Annual production volume (tons)		Annual value (million rupees)*	
	Plan at the time of the appraisal	Actual volume for FY2007	Plan at the time of the appraisal	Actual volume for FY2007
Fuel wood	284,000	340,000	196	235
Bamboo	12,310,000 (numbers)	112,500,000 (numbers)	19	169
Fodder (grass / leaves)	5,842	15,900	1	3
Fruits	10,224	46,700	102	467

\* The figures have been rounded off to the nearest millions of rupees.  
Source: Karnataka Forest Department, Government of Karnataka