



USAID/ANE Reg. 216 Basic Training Small-Group Exercises 3, Recommend IEE Decisions

WRITE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS -

Please review the selected project descriptions (SUMMARY OF FINDINGS) without accompanying recommended environmental decisions. Discuss, comment, and draft your group's recommended environmental decision. Then report back to the class on its issues, challenges, and decision.

1. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS - Livelihood and Income from the Environment (LIFE), Red Sea Project, 263-0290; Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Marsa Shagra Activity/Egypt

USAID/Egypt plans to fund its “Livelihood and Income from the Environment (LIFE), Red Sea Project, 263-0290; Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Marsa Shagra activity” to promote sustainable natural and cultural tourism development in the South Red Sea coast that meets the needs of present tourists and local residents, while protecting and enhancing economic opportunities for the future. Related objectives include: 1) to engage local Red Sea residents equitably in the economic, social and cultural benefits generated by tourism; 2) to enhance Egypt’s competitiveness in the fast growing international natural and cultural tourism market; and 3) to ensure protection, management and sustainable use of the natural and cultural assets upon which the tourism industry and local livelihoods in the Red Sea Governorate are based. The project’s “Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Marsa Shagra activity” is a joint intervention with the Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA), a local non-government organization (NGO), to establish and operate a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) within an integrated solid waste management system. An MRF is an area equipped to sort out and process non-organic waste for recycling or reuse. At the Shagra MRF, the LIFE Red Sea project will provide equipment (conveyor belt, plastic granulator, and compactors for paper/carton and metals), and provide technical assistance and training to the MRF staff.

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

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2. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS - Pakistan Reconstruction Special Objective (SpO 391-008)

Through the “Pakistan Reconstruction Special Objective (SpO 391-008),” USAID/Pakistan will support recovery and reconstruction efforts from the devastating October 8, 2005 earthquake that caused massive loss of life, damage, and displacement in Pakistan’s North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) and the Pakistanian-administered area of Kashmir. The purpose of the SpO is to re-build health infrastructure and key education facilities and re-establish livelihoods and shelter for those affected by the earthquake.

Under SpO 391-008, USAID may provide experts on the World Bank/Asian Development Bank needs assessment team in identifying re-building needs, particularly for schools and hospitals, power, and perhaps water, sanitation, and livelihoods. In addition, USAID recognizes community infrastructure and capacity strengthening will be the key elements of proposed reconstruction efforts. Rebuilding health facilities and schools and providing systems and supplies to bring them quickly to operational status are top priorities. USAID-funded buildings will adhere to international earthquake standards. The mission is also considering the provision of cash transfers in support of road construction management by the Government of Pakistan (GOP).

Weather, political and physical access, and security considerations will affect the timing and extent of reconstruction. In Mansehra (NWFP), for example, winter weather is significantly less harsh than in Muzaffarabad (AJK), allowing permanent construction to begin in the winter in the Frontier. Where worsening weather is expected to be a binding constraint, such as in AJK, USAID will provide substantial temporary structures for public buildings.

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

3. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS - SO 11: “Increased Economic Growth and Job Creation”/Morocco

This SO will help Morocco respond to the challenges and opportunities of a more liberalized trading environment, which is expected to result, in part, from the Free Trade Agreement with the US. It will assist in the creation of jobs and investment opportunities in agriculture, agribusiness, rural tourism, and other sectors to help offset anticipated losses from reduced protection on domestic agricultural production. It will accomplish this through the following Intermediate Results (IRs): IR 11.1: Increased Productivity in Agriculture and Agribusiness; IR 11.2: New Business Opportunities Outside of Agriculture and Agribusiness Expanded; IR 11.3: Business Environment Improved.

NOTE: It should be noted that a Programmatic Environmental Assessment was conducted under the “Morocco Urban Infrastructure, Land Development and Financing Program HG-IV (608-0221) in 1993. This Programmatic Assessment concluded that there would not be significant impacts to the environment as compared with the “no-project” alternative for activities relating to the “Cities Without Slums” initiative. The major issue raised by this report was the shifting of the sewage problem to another location without adequate provision for wastewater treatment facilities because of the excessive financial burden on the municipalities. It is expected that over time, wastewater treatment facilities will be upgraded to remedy this situation.

Any grants or other fund transfers (e.g., sub-grants) made to organizations/contractors receiving USAID funds to support this program’s activities must incorporate provisions that the activities to be undertaken will be within the envelope of the environmental determinations and recommendations of this IEE. This includes assurance that the activities conducted via those transfers fit within the description of activities described in an approved IEE or IEE amendment covering this program, and that any mitigating measures required for those activities be followed.

If the activities in this program are materially modified, or additional activities added, the SO team is responsible for assuring that this IEE document is amended appropriately. In accordance with 22 CFR 216, however, specific activities have yet to be defined and will require further application of USAID Environmental Procedures once these enter the design stage.

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

4. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS - Alliance for Mindanao and Multi-Regional Off-Grid Renewable Energy (AMORE 2)/Philippines

This Amendment to the USAID/Philippines' Alliance for Mindanao and Multi-Regional Off-Grid Renewable Energy (AMORE 2) Initial Environmental Evaluation: (1) increases the scope of the AMORE 2 to include a new component entitled "Solar Energy for Rural Electrification and Development (SERED)," and (2) increases the life of project (LOP) funding of the 5-year AMORE 2 activity from \$10 million to \$10.4 million. SERED is an 18-month activity funded by the Global Development Alliance (GDA) Secretariat to implement solar electrification of households and provide solar powered educational equipment (television and satellite dish) in remote and conflict affected areas in Mindanao. SERED forms part of, and is consistent with, AMORE 2 project objectives.

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

5. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS - (1) Strengthening the Natural Resources Policy Regime in Bangladesh and (2) Strengthening the Arannayk Foundation – Phase II

The USAID’s Bangladesh Mission will fund two components in this activity: 1) Strengthening the Natural Resources Policy Regime in Bangladesh, and 2) Strengthening the Arannayk Foundation – Phase II. These components involve no direct environmental impacts, such as forest management activities. **Strengthening the Natural Resources Policy Regime in Bangladesh** will augment efforts to institutionalize the community-based co-management approach through, for example, illustrative activities but not limited to: 1) review of the existing Government of Bangladesh (GOB) policies related to natural resources management; 2) assess the implementation of the natural resources related policies of the GOB, and ongoing efforts of the GOB and other development partners; 3) assess existing policies, acts, rules, regulations and implementation practices and the gaps existing among them, including scoping and design to define the niche for USAID’s policy work in the natural resources management arena; 4) generate awareness among the key policy makers for creating an enabling environment for policy reform; and 5) provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MOEF) to help address the gaps through revising policies and related Acts, rules and regulations, and/or developing a policy/implementation strategy in favor of a collaborative natural resources management system. Technical assistance will be provided to strengthen the MOEF’s capacity in: 1) better understanding crosscutting linkages of natural resources management, and 2) integrating environment and natural resources management into the mainstream fiscal process (for example, providing input to the ongoing Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper), which will require working closely with the Ministry of Finance.

Strengthening the Arannayk Foundation (Bangladesh Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation) – Phase II will help the Arannayk Foundation establish itself as a viable grant-making organization aiming at conserving the fast-disappearing tropical forest resources of the country. USAID will identify targets of opportunity in providing short-term, focused technical assistance to directly address the SO6 crosscutting Intermediate Result 5 – Improved Institutional Capacity (Foundation Established). Illustrative activities will include, but not limited to, the following support activities: 1) a study tour of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director to attend the 2004 EAI/TFCA Meeting and the VI Annual General Assembly of the Regional Network of Latin American and Caribbean Environmental Funds (RedLAC); 2) NGO capacity building training process; 3) developing a long-term implementation plan; 4) site-specific biodiversity monitoring; 5) implementation of the Arannayk communication strategy, including publication of the “State of Biodiversity” series; and 6) developing a public-private conservation partnership; and 7) creating an Asian Tropical Forest Conservation Network, including hosting a regional workshop/conference.

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6. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS - UNDP Decentralization and Local Development Program (DLDSP) Pilot Phase/Yemen

USAID/Yemen will support activities designed to strengthen the implementation of decentralization policy initiatives from the national level, coupled with support for pilot projects at the local level in the target governorates of Al-Jawf and Abyan that aim to reinforce and actualize the broader policy initiatives. Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2[c][2][i], the UNDP Decentralization and Local Development Support Program (DLDSP) Pilot Phase program qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion.

The PIO grant to UNDP also includes a line item that allocates funds to the Local Authorities Development Fund (LADF). Resources from this fund will be provided to participating District Local Councils to add to their annual budgets. UNDP will employ appropriate monitoring and mitigation measures to ensure that activities funded through the LADF are environmentally sound. As the District Local Councils program the funds, they will be required to follow UNDP's procedures. Since this is a policy program, USAID funds in the LADF are not linked to any specific project activity - rather USAID is supporting a reform process. Moreover, USAID does not have knowledge of or control over approval of financing or over the design and details of specific activities funded by District Local Councils that may have an impact on the environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

7. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Lebanon Coastal Oil Spill Response (LCOSP)

In response to the release of heavy fuel oil in coastal Lebanon as a result of recent conflict, USAID/Lebanon intends to fund its “**Lebanon Coastal Oil Spill Response (LCOSR)**” and contract to Seacorp, an oil-spill remediation contractor/vendor, to implement the project. Seacorp would provide: 1) oil-spill investigation; 2) response and remediation; 3) habitat restoration; 4) endangerment assessment; and 5) reporting and documentation services and appropriate equipment and material. These services will likely include the following technical assistance, application of design criteria or standards developed and approved by USAID, planning, and implementation components: 1) site and personnel safety, personnel and equipment decontamination, public protection and relations, sampling and analysis, surveying and mapping, quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC), plume modeling, human health and environmental risk assessment, and related remedial site investigation activities; 2) planning and implementation, including application of chemical, physical, mechanical, and/or biological processes to retard, immobilize, adsorb, neutralize, degrade, attenuate, contain, store, stabilize, treat, incinerate, volatilize, and related remediation activities; 3) cleanse, restore, repopulate, stock, and enhance the adversely impacted or stressed aquatic plant and animal habitats and beaches and related restoration activities; 4) conduct an initial and, if appropriate, follow-up monitoring and evaluation human health and environmental endangerment assessment (including aquatic plant, animal, and avian lifeforms); and 5) coordination, meetings, consultations, and information exchanges, and reporting and documentation during each forgoing component.

In addition, these options are under consideration for funding: 1) shore-based cleanup to be carried out by contractors; 2) procurement of consumable supplies and equipment based on requests from the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC); 3) cash-for-work to help restore livelihoods of fisherman; and 4) survey of wildlife and sensitive habitat. The coast clean-up work may be supported by: 1) contracting an oil-spill contractor/vendor; or 2) issuing an Interagency Agreement with the USCG who then may subcontract an oil-spill contractor/vendor. The habitat survey may be supported through a Public International Organization (PIO) grant to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUNC).

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

8. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS - Record of Decision (ROD) for Scoping Statement (SS) for Environmental Assessment: Secondary Cities Project (263-0236); New Valley Governorate: El Mounira Village, Kharga Oasis; Balat Village, Dakhla Oasis, Amendment 2 for Villages of Tanidah, El Gedida and Nasr El Thowra

The Environmental Threshold Decision (ETD) for the USAID/Egypt Second Cities Project (263-0236) was approved on September 5, 2005 (ANE 05-201). It determined that major wastewater construction activities, such as the New Valley Governorate wastewater collection systems, house connections, pump station, force main, and stabilization pond for the **Villages of Tanidah, El Gedida and Nasr El Thowra**, qualify for **Positive Determination** per 22 CFR 216.3 (a) (2) (iii) because project components are presumed to have potential significant adverse impacts on the environment. As a result, an Environmental Assessment (EA) **scoping process** and **EA** are required, both involving stakeholder participation. The EA should address alternative analysis, project locations, affected environment, potential adverse environmental impacts, environmental mitigation measures, and monitoring for environmental mitigation activities. This amended SS amends the Record of Decision (ROD) for the scoping statement (SS) for similar wastewater infrastructure improvements at El Mounira Village, Kharga Oasis and stabilization pond for Balat Village, Dakhla Oasis (ANE 07-93, approved May 8, 2007).

The approved SS included participation of representatives of the **Villages of Tanidah, El Gedida and Nasr El Thowra** in anticipation of additional funding to allow expansion of the project to include these villages. This new amendment now includes the new villages which participated in the April 11, 2007 scoping meeting to produce the approved SS. The new proposed activities are of a similar nature to those that were proposed in the original villages, and the geographic, environmental, and cultural setting describes in the approved SS are representative of the three new villages as well. The project team consisting of CDM in association with Dr. Ahmed Abdel-Warith Consulting Engineers prepared an EA scoping statement with representatives of the Government of the Republic of Egypt, National Organization for Potable Water and Sanitary Drainage (NOPWSD), Egyptian National Ministries (Housing, Agriculture), the Governorate, the Markaz, the Village, and interested local farmers, landowners, business people, and others. The EA scoping process identified these most significant issues: potential nuisances such as odor and noise; management and reuse of treated wastewater; uncovered antiquities during construction; and sampling and local analysis of treated wastewater.

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

