



## India: Preparing the Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Project - Assam (Phase 2): Processing and Institutional Strengthening

Project Name	Preparing the Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Project - Assam (Phase 2): Processing and Institutional Strengthening	
Project Number	38412-022	
Country	India	
Project Status	Closed	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance	
Source of Funding / Amount	<b>TA 7136-IND: Preparing the Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Project - Assam (Phase 2): Processing and Institutional Strengthening</b>	
	Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 150,000.00
	Multi-Donor Trust Fund under the Water Financing Partnership Facility	US\$ 750,000.00
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth	
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Partnerships	
Sector / Subsector	<b>Agriculture, natural resources and rural development</b> - Rural flood protection - Rural water policy, institutional and capacity development <b>Water and other urban infrastructure and services</b> - Urban flood protection	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	No gender elements	
Description	The TA will help ensure implementation readiness of the Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program.	

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy

The Brahmaputra river system is the fourth largest in the world in flood discharge. While it serves as a lifeline for North Eastern states, frequent flooding and severe erosion have major adverse effects on the economy and ecology, threatening key urban centers, basic infrastructure, industrial and agriculture areas, and natural heritage sites. They remain a major cause of poverty in NE states, with devastating impacts leading to high morbidity, forced seclusion, loss of livestock, crops and assets, and cessation of availability of basic services. Addressing the problems requires a comprehensive and cost-effective flood and erosion mitigation management strategy and programs, with a balanced combination of structural and nonstructural measures suitable in the context of NE states. Along with this, policy and institutional basis needs to be strengthened to support this end, with an integrated and basin-wide perspective. The Government's 11th Five-year Plan puts priority to provide appropriate protection measures of the flood-prone areas. The draft CPS for India notes that the water sector is of fundamental importance in promoting economic growth, poverty reduction, and environmental sustainability, and advocates integrated water resources management (IWRM) as a tool to these ends. It also focuses on poverty reduction of disadvantaged areas, especially in the poor NE states.

Against this background, the Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Project (the Project) aims to promote economic growth and poverty reduction by enhancing the security against flood and riverbank erosion damages across the state. This is pursued through provision of comprehensive structural and nonstructural flood and riverbank erosion risk management (FRERM) programs. Structural measures will primarily focus on areas with vital economic and national interests in the Brahmaputra River. An adaptive, process approach is taken to provide options most suitable and cost-effective to local conditions, e.g., flood protection and riverbank protection along the reaches of vital interests, and more adaptive measures in rural areas such as strategic retirement of dykes and flood proofing. These will be effectively combined with appropriate non-structural measures, including flood and riverbank erosion forecasting, warning, and management systems, disaster prone area zoning, and safety net to the most vulnerable affected poor.

To prepare the Project, a PPTA was implemented for Assam (TA No. 4896-IND). It has prepared a MFF project package including three appraised subprojects, and actions and programs for policy and institutional development including the sector roadmap, through feasibility studies and sector and institutional assessments including diagnostic analyses to define capacity development programs. The TA also provided advice to the Assam state government's (ASG's) preparation process of its draft State Water Policy, which is in the advanced stage. Nevertheless, in effectively initiating the Project, there remains a large gap between the present and required policy and institutional framework and capacities of the executing agencies, which remain largely ad hoc and structure-oriented, with insufficient management systems to respond to the dynamic river environments in an adaptive, efficient, and sustainable manner. Capacities to pursue comprehensive FRERM programs in consultations with diverse stakeholders with effective linkages with the State's disaster management systems are also limited. There is also a need for providing immediate capacity strengthening of the relevant project institutions for the timely Project initiation and implementation. The subject TA, which is proposed as the 2nd phase of the PPTA, is needed to provide critical capacity strengthening support to these ends.

Impact	The TA will enhance security against flooding and riverbank erosion and induced economic growth in the state's vital areas of economic interests (urban and productive rural centers, basic physical infrastructure, and natural heritage sites).
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## Project Outcome

Description of Outcome	The TA outcome includes (i) improved policy environment, planning framework, and capacities of WRD and other agencies to operationalize IWRM integrated FRERM with set reform actions; and (ii) advanced management capacities and readiness to initiate the NEIFREMP (Assam) in terms of DPR preparation and clearance, project office establishment, staff assignment and capacity development, implementation materials and management systems, and progress in mobilization of consultants and in procurement.
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Progress Toward Outcome	TA is substantially completed.
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### Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs	Improved policy, planning, and institutional framework for integrated FREM, including progress in the preparation of state water policies, plans, institutional restructuring; and a better interagency coordination for FREM and other natural disaster management. Strengthened capacities of WRD in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam with establishment of sound FREM management systems. Improved maintenance funding systems through mobilization of flood cess and other resources.
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Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	
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Geographical Location	Assam state
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## Safeguard Categories

Environment	
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Involuntary Resettlement	
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## Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

### Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design	Stakeholder workshops involving the Assam State Government (ASG), the Government of India, the consultants, and ADB will be organized at the inception, midterm, and draft final stages. Seminars and workshops will also be organized with the ASG staff and other stakeholders concerned.
During Project Implementation	During the completed PPTA, two state-level workshops were organized (one workshop completed in Dec. 2007, and another in June 2008), with the invitation of representatives of the Government of India, ASG, local governments, and local research institutions including universities, along with the advocacy NGOs active in social and environmental safeguards agendas in the NE region. The third workshop was also organized in February 2009 at the time of the loan fact-finding mission with similar setup. Given the highly dynamic morphological behavior of the Brahmaputra, the TA's approach, viz., improving the existing flood management infrastructure with an incremental manner adaptive to the natural processes, was supported. NGOs stressed that (i) the ownership and capacity of WRD should be strengthened to institutionalize the approach with stakeholder participation and accountability, which is presently lacking, (ii) careful environmental and social impact assessments should be undertaken with sufficient stakeholder consultation, and (iii) sufficient attention should be provided to enhance the livelihoods of the most vulnerable people who are mostly located outside the flood embankment systems.

## Business Opportunities

Consulting Services	All consultant will be engaged individually by ADB in consultation with the Assam State Government and the Government of India. All recruitment will follow ADB's Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (April 2006, as amended from time to time) and other arrangements satisfactory to ADB for selecting and engaging national consultants.
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## Responsible Staff

Responsible ADB Officer	Yokoyama, Kenichi
Responsible ADB Department	South Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Division, SARD
Executing Agencies	<i>Water Resource Department Government of Madhya Pradesh Mantralaya Bhopal, India 462 001</i>

## Timetable

Concept Clearance	11 Jun 2008
Fact Finding	22 Jun 2008 to 02 Jul 2008
MRM	-
Approval	26 Sep 2008
Last Review Mission	-
PDS Creation Date	21 Oct 2008
Last PDS Update	21 Aug 2011

## TA 7136-IND

Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
26 Sep 2008	24 Nov 2008	24 Nov 2008	31 Dec 2010	31 Aug 2011	-

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
150,000.00	750,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	900,000.00	26 Sep 2008	893,036.07

Project Page <https://www.adb.org/projects/38412-022/main>

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