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Mandated areas

Asian Development Bank

1. In April 1998 the Asian Development Bank (ADB) adopted the Policy on Indigenous Peoples. The Policy provides a framework to extend poverty reduction and improvement in the quality of life realized from development equitably to all segment of the society, including indigenous peoples — ethnic minorities, cultural minorities, indigenous cultural communities, tribal people and scheduled tribes.

2. The Operations Manual of the Policy was approved in December 2000. It is being updated to promote further the participation of indigenous people in the preparation and implementation of ADB-assisted projects, to ensure that they benefit from development interventions that would affect them, and to strengthen safeguards against any adverse impacts of the projects. This process begins early in project planning by identifying probable impacts of a proposed project or programme on indigenous peoples. A screening process identifies the probable impacts of a project or programme on them, and also determines the significance of such impacts: projects with significant impacts on indigenous peoples (category A); projects with limited impacts (category B); and projects with no impacts on indigenous peoples (category C). For the first two categories, the formulation and implementation of an indigenous peoples development plan and an indigenous peoples specific action programme respectively is mandatory. Moreover, an indigenous peoples development framework describing the policy and procedural issues that would be involved in formulation of an indigenous peoples development plan and specific action is also required for certain lending modalities such as sector loans and sector development loans. Moreover, specific compliance requirements by lending modality are included in the Operations Manual.

3. In June 2002 ADB organized a regional workshop on capacity-building for indigenous peoples/ethnic minority issues and poverty reduction based on in-depth field studies in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam. The research and consultations in these countries focused on improving the quality of ADB interventions as they affect indigenous peoples/ethnic minorities. ADB plans to commemorate the end of the International Decade on the World's Indigenous Peoples by holding a workshop on indigenous people and communal land use in Manila.

* E/C.19/2004/1.