

India Environment Program Profile

USAID/India¹ supports environmental efforts through two strategic objectives (SOs): “increased capacity of financial markets to mobilize resources,” and “increased environmental protection in energy, industry, and cities.” This profile’s structure mirrors these objectives.

The first section, Activities in Increasing Capacity of Financial Markets to Mobilize Resources, discusses some of India’s activities in sustainable urban finance and more effective local governments. The second section, Activities in Increasing Environmental Protection in Energy, Industry, and Cities, is subdivided into discussions of biodiversity conservation and management, sustainable urban finance, more effective local governments, reduced urban pollution, energy efficiency, renewable energy resources, and clean conventional energy.

Certain of these environmental activities may contribute to other objectives, for example, in economic development and/or democracy-building and governance issues. Regional and Global Bureau programs also support Mission environmental programs.

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USAID Activities in Increasing Capacity of Financial Markets to Mobilize Resources

Urban Environment: Sustainable Finance

MISSION PROGRAMS

1. Financial Institutions Reform and Expansion (FIRE) Program. One of the principle objectives of the FIRE program is to enable India’s capital markets to function as a reliable source of

¹ In Web document, this would be a link to the Congressional Presentation web site on USAID India programs at <http://www.info.usaid.gov/pubs/cp99/ane/in.htm>

development finance, particularly in the urban environmental infrastructure sector. USAID's initiatives under the FIRE Program have achieved various results including the successful issuance of the first municipal bonds in India, which the city of Ahmedabad implemented. The 1997 issue raised approximately \$25 million for a variety of projects. This model is beginning to be noticed, studied, and replicated in a number of other cities. FIRE is also working with the cities of Pune, Surat, and Vijaywanda to develop urban environmental infrastructure projects, including the financial packages and the means of mobilizing resources for these projects.

Through FIRE, USAID is also working with nine cities (Agra, Ahmedabad, Cochin, Pune, Surat, Tirupur, Shimla, Varanasi, and Vijayawada) to strengthen their financial management through improved accounting systems, better investment planning, improved pricing of municipal services and revenue collection, and better budgeting processes. This work is designed to enable local governments to enhance their revenue bases, qualify for credit ratings, and eventually enable them to access debt financing through the capital market. The FIRE Project is being extended through September 2003.

2. Community Infrastructure Financing Initiative. USAID is providing technical assistance and training under this new initiative, which develops improved linkages between the community-based financial institutions that serve lower-income families and formal finance institutions. The project helps incorporate slums and informal settlements into city infrastructure systems, such as potable water delivery systems. Linking currently unserved communities to city-wide systems mobilizes additional resources, contributes to the financial viability of the infrastructure projects themselves, and delivers badly-needed basic services to a rapidly-growing sector of people in India's cities and towns. Two pilot sites (slum settlements) are being identified in the city of Pune. Appropriate financing models may be developed to finance infrastructure hook-ups for the community.

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL BUREAU PROGRAMS

3. Urban and Environmental (UE) Credit Program. The UE Credit Program is a mechanism to provide developing countries with access to financial resources borrowed from the U.S. private sector. These resources are used to finance urban infrastructure and shelter in poor and low-income neighborhoods, including potable water hook-ups, sanitation connections, solid waste collection, roads, electrification projects, home mortgages, and home improvement loans. USAID's Office of Environment and Urban Programs administers the UE Credit Program and supports a broad range of urban activities through its eight Regional Urban Development Offices (RUDOs). The UE Credit Program involves collaboration with a host-country private or public institution acting as a borrower (e.g., government ministry, bank, development corporation, national cooperative organization, or private investment company).

In India, the UE Credit Program is providing an initial \$25 million portion of the total funds needed to support a \$200 million water and municipal sewerage system in Tamil Nadu. Once the plant is on-line, approximately 400,000 residents will benefit.

Urban Environment: More Effective Local Governments

MISSION PROGRAMS

1. Financial Institutions Reform and Expansion (FIRE) Program. See FIRE description above.

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL BUREAU PROGRAMS

2. International Resource Cities Program. Through the International Resource Cities Program, the skills and experience of selected U.S. local governments are shared with cities in developing and transitional countries. Under this initiative, U.S. cities are partnered with overseas cities to provide technical assistance in improving professional municipal management, supporting participatory and inclusive governance, improving delivery of environmental services, and increasing access to decent and affordable housing. Since the program began in May 1997, it has partnered more than 30 U.S. cities with cities in developing and transitional countries across Eastern Europe, Southern Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

In India, the city of Cochin paired with Charleston, South Carolina to focus on historic preservation and tourism development. Tourism development can be a strong economic development tool, creating new jobs and generating significant new revenues for community development. Officials from both cities have participated in technical exchanges, and based on Charleston's success, Cochin officials identified several tourism-related priorities for the partnership. City officials from Charleston have assisted in the development of two of these, a walking guide for Cochin's historic sites including Fort Cochin, and a training manual for tour guides.

CONTACTS FOR URBAN ENVIRONMENT

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USAID Activities in Increasing Environmental Protection in Energy, Industry, and Cities

Renewable Natural Resources and Environment: Biodiversity Conservation and Management

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL BUREAU PROGRAMS

1. Recently Completed Programs. Two Global Bureau programs, the Biodiversity Support Program (BSP) and the Biodiversity Conservation Network (BCN²), which are associated with each other, completed biodiversity conservation activities in India in 1998. BSP completed the Biodiversity Conservation Prioritization Project, a broad two-year initiative to help the country prioritize sites, species and strategies for biodiversity conservation across the sub-continent. Working with hundreds of community groups, nongovernmental organizations, government agencies, and scientific and educational institutions, the project helped Indian stakeholders examine the framework for, and priority needs in, the biodiversity conservation arena. For example, national policies were compared to village aspirations to determine the level of compatibility and need for policy reforms and/or environmental education or other activities. In addition, the project integrated biological and socio-economic concerns in the discussions it facilitated. Since the completion of the project in April 1998, reports and sub-projects based on the priorities selected are being developed.

BCN is an Asia-focused project with activities designed to enact the belief that “if local communities receive sufficient benefits from an enterprise that depends on biodiversity, then they will act to counter internal and external threats to that biodiversity.” BCN recently completed three small-grant activities in India (two closed out in 1998, one in 1997). An example of these was a partnership between the US-based institution Appropriate Technology International and Indian organizations operating in the Garhwal, Akashkamini Watershed. This three-year collaboration--located in an area home to endangered snow leopards, black bears, bharal and musk deer--addressed issues such as overgrazing by local people's livestock and overharvesting of local flora, which was threatening habitat for these species. The project helped to develop community-based enterprises to offset the need for revenue and raise awareness of the need to conserve resources. The enterprises, oak tasar silk and honey production, are helping residents, especially women, value forest and watershed resources more highly in three sites. The major challenge remains the lack of control local people have over decisions about the land; forest resources are still under the management of higher levels of government. BCN is slated to close in early 1999.

Urban Environment: More Effective Local Governments

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL BUREAU PROGRAMS

1. Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program (AUDMP). The AUDMP is a five-year (1995-2000) program designed to respond to the need for safer Asian cities. The goal of the program is to reduce the disaster vulnerability of urban populations, infrastructure, lifeline facilities, and shelter in selected Asian cities. Pilot projects are currently underway in six countries, including Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka.

Working in conjunction with collaborating institutions in each target country, the program strategy takes a three-tiered approach: (1) national demonstration projects that provide a working example of urban hazard mitigation, (2) information dissemination and networking to help build

² Link to BCN website: <http://www.bcnet.org>

private and public networks as a forum for information exchange, and (3) policy seminars and training to further institutionalize hazard mitigation practices. In operation since September 1995, the program is based at the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center and managed by USAID/Jakarta. USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance provides core funding.

In the India project, which began in October 1997, the focus is on technological and industrial hazards in the cities of Baroda and Calcutta. India's rapid urban growth, coupled with industrial expansion spurred by recent economic liberalization, has exacerbated the vulnerability of many Indian cities to these new hazards introduced by a growing economy. Many manufacturing and hazardous storage sites are located in or near cities, often adjacent to dense concentrations of people. The India pilot project will reduce the vulnerability of several municipalities in the Calcutta Metropolitan Area and the city of Baroda to technological and industrial hazards. The first phase of this project includes the development of hazard maps and a vulnerability assessment for each target municipality. In addition, the team will develop a hazard map for the Calcutta Metropolitan Area, along with guidelines for incorporating technological hazards into urban planning and development. In the second phase of the project, a pilot mitigation plan and an off-site emergency plan will be prepared and implemented in one of the cities.

Urban Environment: Reduced Urban Pollution

MISSION PROGRAMS

1. **Clean Industry Program.** Under this program, USAID provides technical assistance and funding to Indian industries to adopt environmentally sound practices, while promoting Indo-U.S. environmental business linkages. USAID is focusing on highly polluting industrial sectors with rapid growth, including textiles, pulp and paper mills, the pharmaceutical industry, automobiles, food processing, and metal fabrication. The program is also promoting incentives for industry to adopt certified environmental management systems and enhance the capacity of Indian industry to incorporate best available technologies and practices into their operations. In this area, USAID is facilitating the development of an ISO 14000 accreditation scheme to enable Indian industries to achieve international environmental quality standards.
2. **Comparative Environmental Risk Assessments (CRA)/Environmental Action Plans.** As an example of activities under this project, USAID recently funded a CRA of the city of Ahmedabad. The assessment identified and ranked urban environmental health threats, such as air pollution or food contamination, in terms of their severity, impact, mitigation costs and other factors. To build on these findings, the CRA program then funded an Environmental Action Plan to address the three greatest risks identified by the assessment: ambient air pollution from mobile sources, ambient air pollution from stationary sources, and water contamination. As a result of the program's success in Ahmedabad, the cities of Chennai, Pune, West Bengal, Durgapur, and Khulna, Bangladesh, requested and are receiving assistance in implementing their own CRAs and developing Environmental Action Plans.
3. **Trade in Environmental Services and Technologies.** This activity provides technical assistance to promote adoption of international environmental quality standards by industry, and to increase investment in cleaner technologies with the ultimate goal of decreasing pollution per unit of output in key industrial sectors.

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL BUREAU PROGRAMS

4. USAID/US-AEP Technical Representatives. Technology representative offices have been established in Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand to promote demand for environmental improvements in Asia and to facilitate access to U.S. technology and partnerships.

Environmentally Sustainable Energy Production and Use: Energy Efficiency

MISSION PROGRAMS

1. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Power Plant Efficiency Program. This is both a Mission and a Regional/Global project. NTPC's 17 power plants generate 25 percent of India's electric power. In the first phase of the program, USAID supported a pilot power plant efficiency demonstration project at several NTPC facilities. The demonstrations were so well-received that, as a result, NTPC invested \$2.5 million in new environmental equipment. NTPC managers believe the new equipment will save the firm millions annually in coal purchases and generate huge reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The success of the energy efficiency demonstration project led NTPC and another private utility to invest funds in a detailed feasibility study for new power plants based on the technology. The feasibility study is expected to help leverage World Bank and Global Environment Facility funding for project implementation.
2. Energy Conservation Commercialization (ECO) Project. ECO has several stated objectives:
 - Facilitate increased environmental protection in energy, industry, and cities by reducing energy waste and improving the efficiency of energy supply.
 - Bolster India's economic liberalization process by promoting market-oriented solutions to energy sector problems, particularly the need for increased energy efficiency.
 - Leverage World Bank and other donor funding through close collaboration in project design and implementation; and leverage private sector investment through market-based approaches to energy efficiency project development, financing, and implementation.
 - Assist in implementing President Clinton's Climate Change Action Plan by creating a policy and market environment in India that achieves significant GHG emissions reductions through more efficient energy production and use.
 - Engage India more broadly in global climate change actions through win-win energy sector programs, policies, and projects.

The \$25 million, five-year project has two principal components: (1) Energy Efficiency and Institutional Reform assists government agencies and institutions in creating a supportive market environment for the commercialization of energy efficiency projects; (2) Energy Efficiency Market Development and Financing assists players and institutions (e.g., project sponsors or promoters, investors and lenders, equipment manufacturers, engineering companies, and contractors) who are usually involved in developing, designing, constructing, and operating an energy efficiency project.

3. India Private Power Initiative (IPPI). USAID believes a strong private power framework offers significant potential environmental benefits through increased operational efficiency. IPPI is a multi-faceted initiative designed to provide assistance to state electricity boards and the Government

of India in strengthening the country's private power framework. The initiative supports assistance in: (1) developing regulations, contract procedures, and guidelines for setting-up private power companies; (2) processing private power project proposals now pending before the Government; (3) formulating the contract documentation necessary for international financing; and (4) designing activities to help U.S. developers identify potential local joint venture partners for private power projects. The IPPI staff also provide country-wide training on fundamental aspects of private participation in the power sector.

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PROGRAMS

4. Surat Demand Side Management (DSM) Technical Assistance Program. Surat Electricity Company is a privately managed distribution company, which has a peak demand of 280 MW. This demand is expected to grow to 400 MW by the year 2000, resulting in severe peak load shortages. To this end, the company has identified peak load management as its primary objective for DSM, with a secondary objective of introducing energy efficiency improvements to its subsidized rate customers, thus enabling it to sell the saved electricity to unsubsidized consumers. USAID provides technical assistance to Surat to collect and analyze load data for its customers and develop a DSM action plan, as well as to develop educational material for customers on energy conservation.
5. Sustainable Cities Initiative (SCI)--Ahmedabad. The SCI aims to help municipalities in the developing world solve environmental challenges by leveraging private sector investments in energy efficiency and environmental technology. The changes taking place in Ahmedabad are an excellent example of how the initiative operates. Under the Ahmedabad SCI, USAID and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are supporting an alliance between the Ahmedabad Electric Company (AEC), the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), and Arvind Mills, the city's largest textile company, to improve energy efficiency in industrial, commercial, and municipal applications. The alliance has resulted in (1) AMC investing municipal funds to retrofit water pumps and street lights to reduce energy costs and use and (2) AEC and Arvind Mills making significant investments in energy efficiency equipment. The two measures are expected to yield significant reductions in local pollutants and operations costs.
6. Green Schools in Ahmedabad. With USAID funding and technical support from the Alliance to Save Energy, Ahmedabad Eco-club members are helping their families and schools reduce energy costs and save money while protecting the environment. Students in grades five through eleven participate in these after-school clubs lead by teachers trained by the USAID-supported Ahmedabad-based Centre for Environmental Education. The USAID support includes energy education and instructional tools and models of energy education programs developed by the Alliance.
7. USAID is providing technical assistance to the Bureau of Indian Standards to develop energy efficiency standards and labels for electrical appliances. USAID sponsored a labeling workshop in early 1998, which exposed participants to state-of-the art concepts and examples of appliance labels from around the world.

Environmentally Sustainable Energy Production and Use: Renewable Energy Resources

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PROGRAMS

1. **Advanced Bagasse Cogeneration (ABC) Program.** This program is a principal component of USAID's \$19 million Greenhouse Gas Conversion Pollution Prevention Initiative in India, which is being implemented in collaboration with several Indian and U.S. public and private sector partners. Until recently, most sugar mill bagasse (cane waste) combustion systems in India were designed to meet the electricity and thermal needs of the mill. The ABC Program is helping Indian sugar mills design bagasse-based cogeneration systems that maximize combustion and electrical output, operate throughout the year, and can sell electricity to the grid. USAID has also sponsored a series of policy studies designed to facilitate opening the markets for cogenerated power. These studies have led to shifts in power purchase pricing in all India's key sugar producing states, providing direct incentives to investments in cane cogeneration. Almost 300 megawatts (MW) of installed capacity can be tied to USAID's work in promoting bagasse cogeneration in India.
2. **Renewable Energy Project Support Office (REPSO).** The USAID/Global Environment Center has supported Winrock International's development of a REPSO in India. One of the major new projects supported by the REPSO-India is the Solar Electric Light Company Operation (SELCO). SELCO is designed to catalyze improvements in the quality of rural living and expansion in the livelihood options for rural villagers through the provision of solar-based electric generation systems. One state electricity board in India is currently in discussion with SELCO to use solar home systems in place of expensive grid extensions to remote villages. This will not only help to fulfill the state's development agenda but will cut down significantly on transmission and distribution losses and indirectly reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the utility.

Environmentally Sustainable Energy Production and Use: Clean Conventional Energy

MISSION PROGRAMS

1. **U.S. Electric Vehicle Technology Transfer Project.** The Indian transport sector contributes approximately 65 percent to the overall air pollution in urban areas. Particularly harmful are carbon monoxide, particulate matter, and lead emissions. In response to these pollution issues, the USAID/Global Environment Center has initiated a collaborative program with USAID/India and the Indian and U.S. private sector to catalyze the production of zero emission vehicles. In the first phase of the project, USAID co-sponsored a seminar in New Delhi to introduce U.S. electric vehicle (EV) technology in support of this effort. The meeting contributed to the establishment of a steering committee of representatives from the country's largest vehicle manufacturers, relevant Indian governmental agencies, and NGOs, to explore development of an Indian EV industry. As a result of this and other USAID activities, a number of manufacturers of two- and three-wheeled vehicles in India have accelerated their efforts to enter the EV business.

USAID support for a joint venture between the U.S. electric vehicles (EV) firm Amerigon and India's Maini Group of Industries has resulted in the fielding of two prototype EVs for use in India. USAID/India is now using one of the EVs in place of the old, heavily polluted three-wheel vehicle used for mail delivery and other errands. The other EV is being used by Winrock REPSO in Delhi. To date, 12 EVs have been built and tested by Amerigon and the Maini Group. Commercial vehicle production in India is expected to begin in the near future.

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PROGRAMS

2. The USEA Energy Partnership Program. With funding from the USAID/Global Environment Center, the Energy Partnership Program (EPP) of the U.S. Energy Association (USEA) establishes practitioner-to-practitioner, multi-year partnerships between U.S. and developing country utilities and regulatory agencies. In India, the following and other partnerships were created: Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board and Pennsylvania Power & Light Company; Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation Ltd. and Gulf Power Company; Bombay Suburban Electric Supply, Ltd. and Plum Street Enterprises (Affiliate of Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.); and Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission & District of Columbia Public Services Commission/Colorado Public Utilities.

Under the EPP, the Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission -- India's only state electricity regulatory commission -- participated in a November executive exchange with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission and the District of Columbia Public Service Commission. One objective of the exchange visit was to pinpoint a non-computer-based information storage system. (Due to frequent power surges and unreliable power supply, computers cannot be used in Orissa to reliably store legal information). During the executive exchange in Denver, CO, and Washington, DC, the representatives from Orissa determined that microfiche -- instead of cumbersome hard copies and unreliable computers -- could be used to store commission legal records. The Colorado group is exploring ways to donate its current microfiche system to their Indian counterparts.

In addition, in November, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board -- a generation, transmission, and distribution utility serving 12 million customers in India's southern region -- and Dallas-based Texas Utilities, signed a two-year cooperative agreement to participate in USEA/USAID's Indian Energy Partnership Program. The partnership will focus on increased energy efficiency through improved demand-side management (DSM), increased private sector investment in clean power generation through independent power projects, and enhanced generation efficiency through improved plant management. The two-year partnership is designed to promote more efficient, environmentally sound supply and use of energy by transferring private sector, market-oriented expertise to overseas electric and gas utilities.

3. Institute of International Education (IIE) Energy Training Program. In November 1998, USAID/India, IIE, and the Administrative Staff College of India sponsored three training activities. The first was a three-day International Forum on Electric Sector Regulation. Participants from state electricity boards, the Ministry of Power, and newly appointed regulatory commissions focused on reform of the electric sectors in India. They analyzed the risks, pitfalls, lessons learned, and successes presented by guest speakers from Argentina, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Philippines, the United States, and the Indian state of Orissa. The second training activity was a two-week workshop, "How to Host a Successful Private Power Project," held at the Tamil Nadu Electric board

in Chennai. There were 27 participants from Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. The third was a two-day "Training Project Design Workshop" allowing the Indian parties that received IIE training to voice their suggestions and requests for future training workshops.

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The India Environment Program Profile is the fourth effort in a new series of reports that describe USAID-supported environment activities in priority countries. The document will help USAID staff working in other regions and colleagues from other development agencies to better understand the breadth and depth of the Agency's environment program in India. Comments on this document can be submitted to kpage@genv.org.

This profile — like the ones on other USAID priority countries that will follow — focuses on activities on the ground, an area not covered by most other readily available documentation on USAID environment programs. It also feeds this information to a revolving database that will, once a number of profiles have been completed, track activities, provide information on environment programs in a number of sectors and regions, and be updated regularly.

Any database, however, is only as good as the information that populates it. Therefore, we ask that you keep this in mind when circulating descriptions of activities and technical reports and SEND US COPIES of your information. Questions about this and other services of USAID's Environment Information Clearinghouse can be sent to:

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References

For general information on the India program, see:

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- USAID/India, April 1998. FY 2000 Results Review and Resource Request.

For Natural Resources Management section, see:

- BCN website.
- BCPP Overview Paper.

For Urban Environment section, see:

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For Energy section, see:

- Alliance to Save Energy - <http://www.ase.org>
- Bechtel National, Inc. website - <http://www.bechtel.com>
- Institute for International Education - <http://www.iie.org>
- US Energy Association - <http://www.wec98congress.org>
- Winrock International website - <http://www.winrock.org>

[For further information, relevant websites, interesting other things/documents to add here?]