

Australian comments on projects presented under the Work Program approved at the November 2008 GEF Council meeting.

CHINA: PRC-GEF Partnership: Silk Road Ecosystem Restoration Project (GEF Project Grant: \$5.12 million) with ADB

- Australia supports this as a project particularly useful in relation to environmental challenges in China and reflecting previous GEF work on Land Degradation in Dry-land Ecosystems.
- The project has useful synergies with a proposed Australian-supported program in Qinghai and Australia may be interested in collaborating with the GEF in aspects of this project. For example specific pilot activities could provide useful opportunities for shared learning, as could aspects of policy development, drawing on Australia's experience working in this sector in China.
- Australia supports the focus of the project on grasslands, given their importance for carbon stocks.
- Australia recommends taking a realistic approach to what can be undertaken through the project, and welcomes the realistic assessment of risks involved (eg capacities of local government, incentives).

CHINA: Promoting Energy Efficient Room Air Conditioners (PEERAC) Project (GEF Project Grant: \$6.26 million) with UNDP

- This project would support work towards China's energy efficiency goals and may serve as a useful example of technology transfer.
- The project would be important if it could influence the relevant authorities to facilitate and ensure the approval and enforcement of recommended policies in this sector.
- Australia notes that the project will need to look carefully at how to work with authorities to achieve the project's outcomes.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA: Programmatic Approach: Reducing Industry's Carbon Footprint in SE Asia through Compliance with a Management System for Energy

- Australia notes that the design's explanation of the value of taking a programmatic approach in this sector is not strong.
- The only benefits noted are the involvement of regional organisations and coordination of the program with scheduled meetings of regional bodies. The design does not address the potential benefits of a PA, as outlined on pp3-4 of GEF/C.33/6 "From Projects to Programs". The rationale for the program would be strengthened if clear strategic benefits (including in relation to management and outcomes) were detailed. Otherwise, this program risks being a collection of projects without strategic level coherence.