

The views expressed in this presentation are the views of the author/s and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Asian Development Bank, or its Board of Governors, or the governments they represent. ADB does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this presentation and accepts no responsibility for any consequence of their use. The countries listed in this presentation do not imply any view on ADB's part as to sovereignty or independent status or necessarily conform to ADB's terminology.



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FAIR 2026

21-24 SEPTEMBER 2026 | ADB HEADQUARTERS, MANILA

VALUE FOR MONEY: DRIVING QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development – Natural Capital and Climate, and East Asia

Lijun Zhou

Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, SD2-AFNR



Regional Challenges

01 Climate extremes

Drought, floods, heat, and dzud disrupt production and increase losses.

02 Water stress

Scarce and variable water constrains farms, cities, ecosystems, and basin management.

03 Ecosystem decline

Wetlands, seas, grasslands, soils, and biodiversity continue to lose condition and function.

04 Finance gap

Nature benefits rarely translate into bankable cash flows or durable local incentives.

05 Delivery capacity

Local data, safeguards, procurement readiness, and coordination remain uneven.

Protecting natural assets while strengthening food systems, rural livelihoods, and local institutions



A STRATEGIC PRIORITY

ADB's commitment is anchored in:



Strategy 2030
Midterm Review



Environment Action Plan
2024–2030



Food Systems Transformation
Operational Approach



Environmental and
Social Framework



MDB Joint Statement on
Nature, People and Planet



GOAL

Scale investments that:



Protect nature



Restore ecosystems



Generate livelihoods



Mobilize finance



Increase resilience



ADB is scaling natural capital investments that simultaneously protect ecosystems, support people, mobilize capital, and strengthen resilience across **Asia and the Pacific**.



ADB's Natural Capital Framework



Assessing, Integrating
& Monitoring
Natural Capital

Valuation & Ecosystem
Accounting



Innovative Financing
& Investment Mobilization

Green & Blended Finance



Enabling Environment
for Natural Capital

Policies & Governance



Partnerships, Knowledge
Sharing & Capacity
Development

Collaboration & Training

Visible → Actionable → Bankable

VALUE FOR MONEY: DRIVING QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE



What we are looking for (differently)

- Strong operations focus: getting into the bolts and nuts of infrastructure and natural capital investments
- Ecosystem perspective: priority of NCC East Asia team operations
 - Nature-based solutions
 - Landscape approach
- Green financing mechanisms and modalities
 - Nature credits (carbon, biodiversity and water credits)
 - Payment for ecosystem services
 - Water fund and eco-compensation
- Community engagement and participatory approach



Pipelines, 2026-2028

No.	Approval Year	Country	Project Title	Modality	ADB Loan Amount (\$ million)
Loans					
1	2026	MON	Strengthening Mongolia's Disaster Resilience Capacity Project	Project loan	100.0
2	2026	INO	Reducing Marine Debris Program, Subprogram 2	Policy-based lending	500.0
3	2027	RMI	Strengthening Coastal Protection and Food Security for Rural Climate Resilience	Grant	14.5
4	2027	IND	Climate and Disaster Resilient Sikkim through Landscape Enhancement and Ecosystem Management	Project loan	40.0
5	2028	IND	Kerala Sustainable Coastal Protection and Climate Resilience Planning Project	Project loan	260.52
6	2028	IND	Project for Resilient and Integrated Terrestrial Habitats and Wildlife Valorization Initiative	Project loan	120.00
7	2028	INO	Reducing Marine Debris Program, Subprogram 3	Policy-Based Loan	500.00
8	2028	PHI	Marine Ecosystems for Blue Economy Development Program, Subprogram 2	Policy-Based Loan	500.00
9	2028	THA	Protecting and Restoring Ocean and Shoreline Natural Capital for Economic Resilience	Project loan	80.00
10	2028	SRI	Sri Lanka Upper Watershed Ecological Restoration Program (SL-UWERP) - Phase 1	Project loan	100.00



Pipelines, 2026-2028

No.	Approval Year	Country	Project Title	Planned Amount (\$ million)
Technical Assistance				
1	2026	REG	Additional Financing: TA 10425-REG: Toward Plastic Pollution-Free and Sustainable Marine and Coastal Ecosystems in Indonesia and in the Philippines	0.45
2	2026	MON	Empowering Community Volunteers for Disaster and Climate Resilience in Mongolia	0.50
3	2027	IND	Support to the Preparation of Climate and Disaster Resilient Sikkim through Landscape Enhancement and Ecosystem Management	2.00



Flagship Project:

Chishui River Basin Ecological Protection and Green Development Project

- Executing agency: Gulin County Government
- Cost: \$307.94 million (ADB loan \$150 million)
- Implementation period: 2026-2032

The Chishui River is the last free-flowing primary tributary of the upper Yangtze — a refuge for 112 globally significant fish species and the water source of the PRC's most celebrated baijiu distilleries.

ADB and the Gulin County Government are piloting **ADB's first nature credit mechanism** as one component of integrated watershed management.



Source: WWF



Flagship Projects:

2027

Made with AI

SIKKIM

Climate & Disaster Resilient Sikkim through Landscape Enhancement & Ecosystem Management

ADB Loan: ~USD 40 million | Executing Agency: Environment & Forest Department



Key Focus Areas

- Forest & Ecosystem Restoration
- Community-Based Ecotourism
- Payment for Ecosystem Services
- Digital Forest Monitoring
- Climate & Disaster Resilience

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced Ecosystem Resilience
- Diversified Nature-Based Livelihoods
- Sustainable Conservation Financing

2028

Made with AI

RAJASTHAN

Rajasthan Resilient and Integrated Terrestrial Habitats and Wildlife Conservation Project (PRITHVI)

ADB Loan: USD 100 million | Total Cost: USD 141.16 million



Key Focus Areas

- Wildlife & Species Recovery
- Habitat & Corridor Restoration
- Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation
- Nature-Based Tourism & Enterprises
- Sustainable Conservation Finance & Natural Capital

Expected Outcomes

- Recovery of Threatened Species
- Improved Rural Livelihoods
- Climate-Resilient Biodiversity Conservation