

Environment sector

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Review of projects for 2003/04

Review of proposals for 2005/06

1. RAS/8/082 & RAS/7/013– Improved information of urban air quality management in the RCA region

Air pollution is identified as one of the major environmental problems in Australasia. This programme tackles local and transboundary air pollution issues.

- The programme focuses on the regional aspect (transboundary air pollution) after having achieved an awareness of air pollution in the RCA region.
- Regional interest is supported by regional action plan by ESCAP member states; also Asian countries.
- 16 member states; The air pollution programme enjoys strong government commitment as indicated by the evidence provided.

SUCCESS STORIES (three examples)

- o With the help of this programme, the legislation was changed in Bangladesh and the Philippines resulting in a reduction of lead in petrol.
- o Well established national programmes, like to one running in Australia, are enjoying strong government and commercial support. ANSTO in Australia has just finished a two year Australian Coal Assoc. Res. Project (ACARP) for A\$220,000.
- o Upcoming participants, such as Thailand and Sri Lanka, are having now strong links to overseas laboratories (RRUs) that enable them to measure filters on time and elements they could not access, such as Na, S, Si, Pb etc. Their national reputation is increasing resulting in leadership positions in their countries.

2. RAS/8/097 – Isotope techniques for groundwater contamination studies in the urbanized and industrial areas

Similar to air pollution, groundwater pollution is one of the major issues in Australasia in environment. Establishing access to clean water is a primary objective of all programmes running in groundwater pollution. This programme was refocussed in 2002.

- This new programme is based on the previous success story of identifying As in GW in Bangladesh.
- It focuses on the development of methodologies on GW pollution with the aim to have an impact on management decisions.
- 12 member states; Regional interest is supported by regional action plan by ESCAP member states.

3. RAS/8/076 & RAS/7/011 - Enhancing the marine coastal environment

Enhancing the marine coastal environment is another important issue in Australasia. Establishing nuclear based techniques that are able to assist with this complex task is a key objective of this programme. Special attention is now drawn to harmful algal bloom, pollutants and regional databases.

- The HAB sub-project of the programme enjoys a significant government commitment as indicated by the evidence provided.
- Regional interest is supported by regional action plan by ESCAP member states; also Asian countries.

SUCCESS STORIES – End-users are attracted to the HAB programme and provide funding for Indonesia and Vietnam.

4. RAS/8/092 - Investigating environment and water resources in geothermal areas

Scheduled to finish in 2004. Focussed on promoting the development of nuclear techniques to investigate the impact of geothermal areas on water resources.

The programme enjoys significant government commitment as indicated by the evidence provided.

SUCCESS STORIES – Radiotracers used successfully for the first time in sandstorm reservoir (China).
Results supported decision making regarding injection management (PHI).

5. RAS/8/093 - Use of isotopes in dam safety and dam sustainability

Scheduled to finish in 2003. Focussed on the use of environmentally safe isotope techniques in the operation and management of dams and reservoirs.

The programme lacks of government commitment from many countries. Only four countries submitted governmental commitment.

SUCCESS STORIES – None reported to date.

6. RAS/8/095 – Improving regional capacity for assessment, planning and responds to environmental emergencies

This new programme s of high interest for the region and is focussed on the improvement of the regional capacity to respond in the management of aquatic environmental risks. It is scheduled for 2003 and 2004. The programme is funded by AUSAID.

SUCCESS STORIES – None reported to date.

Summary table of environmental sector programme performance

Project	Short title	Performance to date	Performance indicator
RAS9082 & RAS7013	Air pollution	Very good. On track. End-user uptake outstanding.	↑
RAS8097	Ground water	Newly focussed programme.	↑
RAS8083 & RAS7011	Marine coastal	HAB component on track. End-user uptake could be improved. Pollution and database component have not submitted success stories.	→
RAS8092	Geothermal resources	Programme finishes Dec 04.	↑
RAS8093	Dam safety and dam sustainability	No success reported. Programme finishes Dec 03.	↓
RAS8095	Environmental emergencies	New programme.	Not rated

Proposals for environmental sector for 2005/06 cycle - general comments

- Many proposals are not in an adequate form making their assessment very difficult.
- Many proposals do not address specific requirements, such as:
 - UN millennium development goals (MDG) – poverty, environmental sustainability
 - Johannesburg declaration on sustainable development
(Sustainability of programme is not addressed (building partnerships on nuclear technology))
 - Real needs for member states are not precisely spelled out
 - Government commitments are not clearly identified.
 - Linkages to national programmes are often not outlined.
 - Some programmes are research focussed not problem focussed.

Review of proposals for environmental sector for 2005/06 cycle (1/3)

#	Title	Form	Comment	Suggestion	Budget 2005	Budget 2006
1	Enhancing marine coastal environment (EXT)	Not sufficient	As is - transfer to national project.	Interesting problem for RCA. Revise proposal by PAK	150,000 *	150,000 *
2	Isotope techniques for GW contamination studies in urban. & ind. areas (EXT)	Not sufficient	Already budget allocation for 2005.	Request for funding for 2006 for geogenic contamination should be supported	50,000	100,000 *
3	Same title as 2)	Ok		Transfer to national programme or amalgamate with 2)	0	0
4	Appl. of tritium and CFC as geothermal vapor phase tracers in geo. Res. Manag. (NEW)	Ok	Not common problem for many countries	Transfer to national programme	0	0

* Subject to revised proposal

Review of proposals for environmental sector for 2005/06 cycle (2/3)

#	Title	Form	Comment	Suggestion	Budget 2005	Budget 2006
5	Use of isotopes in dam safety and dam sustainability (EXT)	Ok	No progress of RAS 08/093 No active counterparts of RAS 08/093	Revise proposal and submit for 2007/08 cycle.	0	0
6	Isotope and chemical techniques for the assessment of pollutant behaviour in unsaturated zone (NEW)	Not sufficient	Research project. Technology oriented not problem oriented. CRP in place	Submit revised proposal for 2007/08 cycle based on results from CRP that finishes in 2006.	0	0
7	Improved information of urban air quality management in the RCA region (EXT)	Perfect	End-user uptake is established.	Important to shift to regional level to assist governments in local and international decisions.	120,000	170,000

* Subject to revised proposal

Review of proposals for environmental sector for 2005/06 cycle (3/3)

#	Title	Form	Comment	Suggestion	Budget 2005	Budget 2006
8	Investigation of geothermal fields in Himalayan and adjoining mountain ranges in southeast Asia (NEW)	Not sufficient	Premature proposal	Merge with RAS08/092 that runs in 2004.	0	0
9	Environment conservation by using radiation processing (NEW)	Sufficient	Interesting problem	Revise budget including fellowships, expert missions	75,000	100,000
10	Improving regional capacity for responds to aquatic emergencies (RAS8095)		AUSAID		0	0
11	Improving regional capacity for assessing and managing risks associated with contaminated sediments in urban coastal environments. (NEW)		Interesting problem for the region.	No budget figures given; no end-user identified	100,000 *	100,000 *

* Subject to revised proposal

**Based on the information provided in the proposals, the following
priority list has been developed:**

Title	Priority	2005	2006
Enhancing the marine coastal environment (EXT)	3	150,000 *	150,000 *
Isotope techniques for GW contamination studies in urbanised and industrial areas (EXT)	2	50,000	100,000 *
Same title as 2)	-	0	0
Appl. of tritium and CFC as geothermal vaporphase tracers in geo. Res. Manag. (NEW)	-	0	0
Use of isotopes in dam safety and dam sustainability (EXT)	-	0	0
Isotope and chemical tech. for the assessment of pollutant behaviour in unsaturated zone (NEW)	-	0	0
Improved information of urban air quality management in the RCA region (EXT)	1	120,000	170,000
Investigation of geothermal fields in Himalayan and adjoining mountain ranges in southeast Asia (NEW)	-	0	0
Environment conservation by using radiation processing (NEW)	5	75,000	100,000
Improving regional capacity for responds to aquatic emergencies (RAS8095)	-	AUSAID	AUSAID
Improving reg. Cap. for ass. and managing risks associated with contaminated sediments in urban coastal environments. (NEW)	4	100,000 *	100,000 *
* Subject to revised proposal		495,000 *	620,000 *

Comments

Specific

- Comparison of environmental cycles 2003/04 and 2005/06
 - (a) Number of projects: 4 ext. ,2 new
 - (b) Budget decreased by 25 % (03/04: 1,505,690 → 1,115,000)
- Two proposals shifted to 2007/08 cycle

General

- Disappointing number of proposals (more guidance (and training) is needed) resulting in some currently uncovered areas:
 - (a) Soil contamination
 - (b) Save workplace
 - (c) Surface water including storm water
 - (d) Indoor air pollution
- No clear linkage to industrial and health RCA programmes
- Disappointing quality of proposals (submission route has to be established)

Selected environmental topics of interest for the RCA region in no priority order

Topic	Sub topic	03/04	05/06
Air pollution	Local and regional	✓	✓
	Indoor / save workplace		
Water pollution	Surface water		
	Unsaturated zone		
	Ground water	✓	✓
	Coastal marine	✓	✓
Soil contamination			
Geothermal resources		✓	
Dam safety and dam sustainability		✓	
Environmental emergencies		✓	✓
Environment conservation	Radiation processing		✓