

Foreign Aid Training for China's Desertification Control

I. Title

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II. Background

China is a party to the *UN Convention to Combat Desertification* (hereinafter referred to as the "UNCCD"), and the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (formerly the State Forestry Administration) is responsible for the implementation of the UNCCD at the national level. Internationally, China's implementation of the UNCCD is known as the "three most", i.e. it is one of the countries with the largest desertification area; it has the biggest population affected by desertification; and it has the most remarkable achievements in desertification control. In order to promote China's mature experience and technology in desertification control, as well as help developing countries, especially Africa countries and countries along the "Belt and Road" by this phase, to improve the effectiveness of desertification control, and to promote the development of global desertification control, National Forestry and Grassland Administration provides foreign aid training courses on desertification control in China. The training is under the framework of China's foreign aid training and relying on qualified units such as Gansu Desert Control Research Institute and International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan.

III. Implementation Time

The Gansu Desert Control Research Institute (jointly founded by the Forestry Department of Gansu Province and the Chinese Academy of Forestry) has organized foreign aid training on desertification control since 1993;

The International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan (public institution of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration) has organized foreign training on desertification control since 2011.

IV. Implementation Stage

From 1993 to 2013, the foreign aid training course on desertification control mainly targeted African

countries (including English-speaking African countries and French-speaking African countries) and other developing countries in need;

Since 2014, after Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the cooperation initiative of "New Silk Road Economic Belt" and "21st Century Maritime Silk Road" in September 2013 and October 2013, the foreign aid training on desertification control has been mainly targeting relevant countries along the "Belt and Road".

V. Parties Related to the Implementation of the Case

Sponsor: People's Government of the People's Republic of China.

Management unit: the Ministry of Commerce before 2018. National Cooperation and Development Agency since 2018.

Implementation units: Units funding the implementation of foreign aid training courses. In the field of desertification control, it mainly refers to the Gansu Desert Control Research Institute and the International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan.

Supporting unit: Desertification Control Department of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (formerly the Desertification Control Center of State Forestry Administration)

Participating units: Other units related to desertification control, will send personnel to give lessons for the foreign aid desertification training classes, such as the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Water Resources, and the Beijing Forestry University.

VI. Beneficiaries

Practitioners of desertification control in developing countries, including officials and prevention experts.

VII. Total Investment and Capital Structure

It was estimated that an average of two classes per year have been organized by the Gansu Desert Control Institute since 1993 and it was 26 years in total. The average appropriation per class by the foreign aid management agency is about USD 35,000 and it is roughly estimated that a total of about

USD 1.8 million has been invested. Since 2011, the International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan offers one class every year and it was 8 classes in total. The average appropriation per class from the foreign aid management agency is about USD 60,000. A total of about USD 480,000 has been invested so far. The above investment totals USD 2.28 million approximately.

VIII. Supporting Fund and Capital Structure

Among the total funds, the Gansu Desert Control Institute gave an average subsidy of USD 15,000 per class from fiscal funds. In the past 26 years, the total subsidy has been USD 780,000. The International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan received an average subsidy of USD 9,000 per class from fiscal funds. In the past 8 years, the total subsidy were USD 72,000. The above investment totals USD 852,000.

IX. Project Level

National

X. Mitigation and Adaptation to the Effects of Climate Change

The foreign aid training course on desertification control focuses on teaching and exchanging practical technologies for prevention and control of desertification, improving the function of desert ecosystems through desertification control, increasing vegetation coverage in desertification areas, and increasing the carbon sequestration capacity of desertification land. Quantitative assessment on the effects of mitigation and adaptation to climate change is not available so far.

XI. Social, Economic and Environmental Impacts

By increasing the desertification control capacity of the target training countries, it will indirectly help increase the vegetation coverage in the desert areas, improve the ecological environment, and enhance the social and economic development capabilities of relevant countries and regions. Currently, there is no quantitative assessment of the positive impact on the socio-economic environment of the target countries.

XII. Related Photos and Charts



Figure 1 Students in the Training Class



Figure 2 Chinese Experts Give Lessons to the Students



Figure 3 Indoor Teaching



Figure 4 Trainees Visit the Minqin Desert Botanical Garden



Figure 5 Trainees Visit the Gansu Desert Control Research Institute



Figure 6 Field Study



Figure 7 Trainees Participate in the Practice of Desert Control Grass Grid Laying