

MIKE SHARROCKS CONSULTANCY

Tourism Feasibility • Development Planning • Urban Design • Urban Regeneration • Environmental Appraisal

China

MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE EU-CHINA ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION MANAGEMENT

For the European Commission, 2004

Mike Sharrocks was the urban planner on a three-person team led by ECORYS-NEI that was appointed by the European Commission (EuropeAid) to undertake a Mid-term Evaluation (MTE) of the EU-China Environmental Management Cooperation Programme (EMCP). EMCP is one of the most important programmes funded by the European Commission (EC) in China's environmental field. It is designed to assist the Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21 and other institutions to improve environmental planning and management throughout the country. The total budget for EMCP was €19 million of which roughly two-thirds was contributed by the EC. The EMCP programme started in September 2001 and was scheduled to end in September 2005. The mission was undertaken during July and August 2004.

EMCP activities were carried out within four different lots: Lot 1 - Institutional Development and Capacity Building; Lot 2 - Local and Municipal Development; Lot 3 - Industry Development; Lot 4 - Information, Documentation and Promotion. Mike Sharrocks was tasked to carry out the evaluation of the Lot 2 work. The overall objective of the Lot 2 element of EMCP was to improve capacity in sustainable development at the local and municipal government level, especially in small and medium-sized cities that participated in the two national experimental programmes for Local Agenda 21.



The MTE assessment used the standard evaluation criteria adopted by the EC EuropeAid Office. This focused on five overall project evaluation criteria: relevance; efficiency; effectiveness; impacts; and sustainability. The key issues that were reviewed included project appropriateness and adaptability, inter-agency co-ordination, log-frame quality, value for money, project monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder cooperation, impacts on capacity development and the effectiveness of workshops, whether project and environmental sustainability objectives were met, and assessing the viability of project continuation, as well as what lessons had been learnt.

The Lot 2 assessment concentrated on demonstration projects, and the preparation of a sustainable planning guide, which were the primary means of implementing its 'Project Purposes'. Three Lot 2 projects were visited during the MTE mission: in Huairou (just north of Beijing) that focused on preparing an ecological plan; Jinan (Shandong Province) on air quality management; and Wuhan (Hubei Province) that looked at urban renewal and conservation in the Jiang'an District of the city. Programmes for training and professional exchange were also reviewed. The assessment of the Lot 2 project programme was set out in a separate document that was incorporated into the overall MTE report submitted to the European Union Delegation of the EC in Beijing.

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