



USAID
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LAC-IEE-05-20

ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION

Country: Colombia

Activity Title: SO2: Integrated Sustainable Development of Indigenous Groups in National Park Buffer Zones in Colombia

Activity Number: 514-008

Life of Project: FY 2005 – FY 2008

Life of Project Funding: \$4 million

IEE Prepared by: Gabriel Escobar, USAID/Colombia, Mission Environmental Officer

Date Prepared: July 15, 2005

Recommended Threshold Decision: Categorical Exclusion/Negative Determination with Conditions/Positive Determination

Bureau Threshold Decision: Categorical Exclusion/Negative Determination with Conditions/Positive Determination

Comments:

This Environmental Threshold Decision covers the Integrated Sustainable Development of Indigenous Groups in National Park Buffer Zones in Colombia.

- a) Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2) (i), (iii), (v) and (xiv) a **Categorical Exclusion** is issued for sub-activities involving education, technical assistance, training,

analyses, studies, academic or research, workshops and meetings, document and information transfers, and activities intended to develop the capability of recipient countries to engage in development planning, except to the extent designed to result in activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities).

- b) A **Negative Determination with conditions** is issued for the activities of producing and processing natural rubber, hearts of palm, cassava, passion fruit, cacao, oil palm, forestry and agro-forestry, with the condition that the recommendations from the prior EAs prepared by the Mission and approved by the USAID/LAC/BEO Environmental Assessments for these activities, will continue to be applied and full used in the implementation of the projects. The Mission Environmental Officer, and CTO will oversee the implementation of these EAs with their contracting organizations. Reports on these matters will be submitted by the Mission to the USAID/LAC/BEO on an annual basis.
- c) A **Negative Determination with conditions** is issued for the activities of agricultural producing and processing the products mentioned and listed guidelines (See Annex 2) The condition is that the mentioned guidelines will be fully used and applied in the implementation of these activities. The Mission Environmental Officer, CTO, and contractor(s) will oversee the use of these guidelines. Reports on these matters will be submitted by the Mission to the USAID/LAC/BEO on an annual basis.
- d) A **Negative Determination with conditions** is issued for the use of pesticides in the production of the attached list of agricultural products included in the approved PERSUAP, with the condition that the recommendations from the PERSUAP will continue to be fully applied in the implementation of these activities. The Mission Environmental Officer, CTO and contractor(s) will oversee the implementation and use of the PERSUAP. Within the first six months of implementation of Integrated Sustainable Development of Indigenous Groups in National Park Buffer Zones in Colombia program, the mission will conduct a complete evaluation of the listed Programmatic Environmental Assessments, EAs, PERSUAP and other mission environmental guidelines to determine their effectiveness. This evaluation will be approved by the Mission Environmental Officer and the USAID/LAC/BEO. Additional reports on these matters will be submitted by the Mission to the USAID/LAC/BEO on an annual basis.
- e) A **Positive Determination** is issued for the production and processing of agricultural projects not included in the list referred to points b) and c) of this approval, that may cause significant environmental impacts. Following the present determination, the Mission will use a similar procedure to that utilized in 2002 to 2004, taking special care to follow the ER procedures established in the PEA approved by LAC/BEO on 4/28/03. Based on these procedures, the MEO will determine which activities/projects may use the ER process and which activities will require the preparation of an EA. Environmental considerations,

including monitoring and training, will be included in contractual documents related to the above components of SO2.

CTOs are responsible for making sure environmental conditions are met. It is the responsibility of the SO Team to ensure that activity related SOAGs, MAARDs and contracting documents contain specific instructions reflecting this Threshold Decision. Local implementing partners will be made fully aware of the environmental mitigation and monitoring requirements presented in this IEE.

	_____Date_____
	Victor H. Bullen Bureau Environmental Officer Bureau for Latin America & the Caribbean
Copy to:	Liliana Ayalde, Mission Director USAID/Colombia
Copy to:	Craig Anderson, Mustapha El Hamzaoui, Alternative Development Office
Copy to:	Jeff Goebel, Development Office, USAID/Colombia
Copy to:	Gabriel Escobar, MEO, USAID/Colombia
Copy to;	Bruce Bayle, Regional Environmental Advisor, USAID/Colombia
Copy to:	Robert Kahn, LAC/CAR
Copy to:	IEE File

Attachment: IEE

File: P:\LAC.RSD.PUB\RSDPUB\EES\Reg 216\IEE\IEE05\IEE05-20.ETD(CO – SO2 Buffer Zones Natl Parks).doc

INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION
SO2: Integrated Sustainable Development of Indigenous Groups in
National Park Buffer Zones in Colombia

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE LOCATION: Colombia

TITLE: SO2: Integrated Sustainable Development of Indigenous Groups in National Park Buffer Zones in Colombia

ACTIVITY NUMBER: 514-008

LOP FUNDING: \$4,000,000

LIFE OF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: Three Years - FY 2005 to FY 2008

IEE DRAFTED BY: Gabriel Escobar, USAID/Colombia, Mission Environmental Officer

I. Description of Strategic Objective:

Colombia's extraordinary national park system encompasses some of the world's most biologically diverse tropical forests. They represent a huge potential source of income via commercial forestry, eco-tourism, and other economic activities. Presently, the Colombian National Park system is threatened by illegal human settlements, illegal use of its resources and increasing cultivation of illicit crops. The U.S. Congress has noted that buffer zones around national parks, if managed properly, can play an important natural protective shield for these protected areas. As such, USAID/Colombia will invest resources over the next three years to support projects related to sustainable productive activities and conservation which would significantly improve the livelihoods of, and reduce inequalities among indigenous groups living in buffer zones, and thus, prevent further intrusion of illegal crops into national parks and degradation of natural resources.

Under the program proposed in this RFA, USAID's strategy is to work with indigenous groups and small farmers in selected national park buffer zones to create sustainable alternative economic activities, while at the same time efforts are undertaken to eradicate illicit crops within buffer zones and prevent their intrusions in national parks. It is an integrated development program that will involve key stakeholders in buffer zones, including indigenous peoples, small farmers, indigenous organizations, local and municipal government agencies, and NGOs. All are needed to promote partnerships and

collaboration and to conduct conservation and sustainable development activities while at the same time preserving the social and cultural fabric of indigenous groups.

II. Program Objectives

The broad goal of integrated sustainable development in buffer zones is to improve the sustainable use and conservation of resources by advancing the economic and social well-being of the indigenous people and small farmers within targeted areas in a manner that ensures ecological and economic diversity, productivity, and sustainability.

The program's goals are: 1) to increase the number of indigenous people employing sustainable agricultural practices and income generation options in the buffer zones of national parks; 2) to promote sustainable land use and conservation of biodiversity; and 3) to strengthen existing local and regional institutions that support long-term, sustainable livelihood strategies for indigenous groups in buffer zones.

USAID/Colombia intends to implement this activity by awarding a grant of up to \$4.0 million managed under a cooperative agreement for a period of three years.

USAID intends to support the best U.S or Colombian non-profit, non-governmental institutions, or a consortium of such institutions led by a U.S. institution, to achieve the objectives of this RFA. USAID/Colombia deliberately has chosen not to prescribe the approaches that applicants must employ, except to recommend that activities be implemented in buffer zones of at least two of the following national parks: Sierra Nevada; Purace (Huila and Cauca); and Alto Fragua. Other proposed national park buffer zones might be considered if sufficient justification is provided.

III. Illustrative Activities

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) wants to implement a program that would help Colombia: 1) achieve sustainable management practices of national park buffer zones (zonas de amortiguacion), 2) support sustainable productive activities in these areas; 3) achieve organizational strengthening of local indigenous communities seriously affected by the violent culture of illicit crops, and 4) promote biological diversity conservation in targeted areas.

The primary means for achieving sustainable development in buffer zones is through an integrated development approach that focuses on, but is not exclusively limited to carefully selected areas around the following Colombia national parks: the Sierra Nevada, the Purace (Huila and Cauca), and the Alto Fragua (Caqueta). This development program should consider and carry out the following types of activities:

- Institutional development with a focus on indigenous communities (i.e. strengthens and consolidate organizational processes for project management; strengthen indigenous cabildo territorial councils, etc.)
- Implementation of environmentally friendly income-generating productive activities.
- Improve access to markets, job opportunities and social services for indigenous groups while ensuring sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of fragile ecosystems.
- Increase the social capital of indigenous communities to organize collectively to meet their own needs.
- Support local capacity building in the area of management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation in buffer zones and within protected areas.
- Provide indigenous communities around natural protected areas with new understanding and skills in management of buffer zone resources.
- Support indigenous community investments in productive activities, including micro-enterprise and eco-tourism programs.
- Leverage resources mobilized from public and private sources at national, regional, and local levels.
- Tackle and strengthen key issues of ethno development initiatives (community tourism, cultural assets, and ethno biological production).
- Support indigenous community-based associations in investment planning and implementation.
- Support/strengthen the socio-economic dimensions of conservation in buffer zones including land tenure and titling, economic livelihoods, population migration, gender issues, and appropriate stakeholder engagement.
- Foster closer integration and coordination (if appropriate with USAID/Colombia strategy and policies) with existing programs and projects sponsored by other donors or NGOs in targeted areas.

Consistent with the USAID/Colombia strategy, the program will give priority to those geographic areas that are actively confronting illegal drug cultivation and narco-trafficking. Coca production often occurs in buffer zones with intrusions in national parks, as well. If illicit crops are to be eradicated or voluntarily substituted by licit crops, it is only natural for productive activities to be considered as viable long-term economic alternatives in these areas. Alternative economic development options in the buffer zones should be restricted to technically and sustainable appropriate productive activities such as agro forestry, coffee, cacao production, processing, and marketing. The program should consider the implementation of basic food security activities, as well as explore opportunities for implementation of activities related to eco-tourism and micro-enterprise.

II. Justification for Environmental Determination:

The following activities of Integrated Sustainable Development of Indigenous Groups in

National Park Buffer Zones in Colombia are not expected to have significant impacts on the environment: institutional development, increase the social capital of indigenous communities, support local capacity building in the area of management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation, provide indigenous communities with new understanding and skills in management of buffer zone resources, leverage resources mobilized from public and private sources at national, regional, and local levels, support indigenous community-based associations in investment planning and implementation, support/strengthen the socio-economic dimensions of conservation in buffer zones including land tenure and titling, population migration, gender issues, and appropriate stakeholder engagement, foster closer integration and coordination (if appropriate with USAID/Colombia strategy and policies) with existing programs and projects sponsored by other donors or NGOs in targeted areas, training, technical assistance to be provided to indigenous groups, improvement of local and national indigenous organizational associations, strengthen local and regional human rights institutions, encourage local community participation in education and communication, enhancement of local governance and land management capabilities of indigenous people.

These classes of actions are not subject to the procedures set forth in 216.3, except to the extent provided herein: These activities qualify for a categorical Exclusion under 22 CFR; 216.2(c)(2):

- (i) Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such training programs includes activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.);
- (iii) Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings;
- (v) Document and information transfers;
- (xiv) Studies, projects or programs intended to develop the capability of recipient countries to engage in development planning, except to the extent designed to result in activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.).

Certain components of Integrated Sustainable Development of Indigenous Groups in National Park Buffer Zones in Colombia projects could have potential environmental impacts:

- Income generating productive activities (agriculture, forestry, agroforestry, coffee and other crops). Crops have not been defined yet.
- Improve access to markets, job opportunities and social services for indigenous groups
- Sustainable use of natural resources
- Support to indigenous community investment in productive activities, including micro-enterprises and tourism,

- Ethno development initiatives (community tourism, biological production)
- Pilot projects for alternative, sustainable production systems
- Private sector participation in sustainable production systems
- Some agricultural projects may involve the use of pesticides

In year 2004, USAID/Colombia, prepared and submitted to USAID/LAC/BEO, for approval the following Environmental Assessments, which were approved with the following Environmental Threshold Decisions (ETDs):

- Programmatic Environmental Assessment For SO1, SO2 and SO3 USAID/Colombia Strategic Objectives. The PEA was approved by USAID/LAC/BEO on 4/28/03.
- Natural rubber, ETD, ETD USAID/LAC-EA-04-06 issued on 3/19/04
- Hearts of palm, ETD USAID/LAC-EA-04-01 issued on 2/11/04
- Cocoa, ETD USAID/LAC-EA-04-14 issued on 6/18/04
- Passion fruit, ETD USAID/LAC-EA-04-09 issued on 6/02/04
- Yucca (cassava), ETD USAID/LAC-EA-04-02 issued on 2/11/04
- African oil Palm, ETD USAID/LAC-EA-04-03 issued on 2/13/04
- Colombia Forestry Development Program, ETD USAID/LAC-IEE-03-25 issued on 5/13/04

USAID/Colombia Mission through Chemonics and ARD-CAPP prepared a Pesticides Evaluation report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP), which covers more than 80 different crops. Attached is the list of the crops included in the PERSUAP (Annex 1). USAID/LAC/BEO approved such PERSUAPs with Environmental Threshold Decisions Nos. USAID/LAC-IEE-04-03 and USAID/LAC-IEE-04-24 dated 1/27/04 and 5/31/04.

The environmental impacts of most agricultural crops production and processing are analyzed in the different environmental guidelines developed by USAID/Colombia, USAID/LAC, and the Colombia Ministry of Environment. These environmental guidelines make a full analysis of the crop production and processing steps and indicate clear and affordable mitigation measures. These guidelines cover most of the crops that may be developed by Integrated Sustainable Development of Indigenous Groups in National Park Buffer Zones in Colombia program. Attached is the list of the crops for which USAID/Colombia Mission has environmental guidelines (annex 2).

IV. Recommendation:

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that the USAID/LAC Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO) approve:

- f) A **Categorical Exclusion** is recommended for the following Integrated Sustainable Development of Indigenous Groups in National Park Buffer Zones in Colombia activities: institutional development, increase the social capital of indigenous communities, support local capacity building in the area of management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation, provide indigenous communities with new understanding and skills in management of buffer zone resources, leverage resources mobilized from public and private sources at national, regional, and local levels, support indigenous community-based associations in investment planning and implementation, support/strengthen the socio-economic dimensions of conservation in buffer zones including land tenure and titling, population migration, gender issues, and appropriate stakeholder engagement, foster closer integration and coordination (if appropriate with USAID/Colombia strategy and policies) with existing programs and projects sponsored by other donors or NGOs in targeted areas, training, technical assistance to be provided to indigenous groups, improvement of local and national indigenous organizational associations, strengthen local and regional human rights institutions, encourage local community participation in education and communication, enhancement of local governance and land management capabilities of indigenous people.
- g) A **Negative Determination with conditions** is recommended for the activities of producing and processing natural rubber, hearts of palm, cassava, passion fruit, cacao, oil palm, forestry and agro-forestry, with the condition that the recommendations from the prior EAs prepared by the Mission and approved by the USAID/LAC/BEO Environmental Assessments for these activities, will continue to be applied and full used in the implementation of the projects. The Mission Environmental Officer, and CTO will oversee the implementation of these EAs with their contracting organizations. Reports on these matters will be submitted by the Mission to the USAID/LAC/BEO on an annual basis.
- h) A **Negative Determination with conditions** for the activities of agricultural producing and processing the products mentioned and listed guidelines(See Annex 2) The condition is that the mentioned guidelines will be fully used and applied in the implementation of these activities. The Mission Environmental Officer, CTO, and contractor(s) will oversee the use of these guidelines. Reports on these matters will be submitted by the Mission to the USAID/LAC/BEO on an annual basis.
- i) A **Negative Determination with conditions** is recommended for the use of pesticides in the production of the attached list of agricultural products included in the approved PERSUAP, with the condition that the recommendations from the PERSUAP will continue to be fully applied in the implementation of these activities. The Mission Environmental Officer, CTO and contractor(s) will oversee the implementation and use of the PERSUAP. Within the first six months of implementation of Integrated Sustainable Development of Indigenous Groups in National Park Buffer Zones in Colombia program, the mission will conduct a

complete evaluation of the listed Programmatic Environmental Assessments, EAs, PERSUAP and other mission environmental guidelines to determine their effectiveness. This evaluation will be approved by the Mission Environmental Officer and the USAID/LAC/BEO. Additional reports on these matters will be submitted by the Mission to the USAID/LAC/BEO on an annual basis.

- j) A **Positive Determination** for the production and processing of agricultural projects not included in the list referred to points b) and c) of this approval, that may cause significant environmental impacts. Following the present determination, the Mission will use a similar procedure to that utilized in 2002 to 2004, taking special care to follow the ER procedures established in the PEA approved by LAC/BEO on 4/28/03. Based on these procedures, the MEO will determine which activities/projects may use the ER process and which activities will require the preparation of an EA. Environmental considerations, including monitoring and training, will be included in contractual documents related to the above components of SO2.

Approval:

 Gabriel Escobar
 Mission Environmental Officer

Date: _____

Concurrence:

 Michael J. Deal
 Director USAID/Colombia

Date: _____

 Bruce Bayle/REA

Date: _____

Approval:

 Victor Bullen, Regional
 USAID/LAC/BEO

Date: _____

Clearances:

Mustapha El Hamzoui, AD Officer _____
 D. Craig Anderson, SADO _____
 Jeffrey Goebel, ASProgram Officer _____

INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION**SO2: Areas for Municipal-level Alternative Development (ADAM)****Annex I: Crops included in the approved PERSUAP**

Aguacate	Esparragos	Patilla
Ahuyama	Estevia	Pepinos
Aji	Fique	Peras
Ajonjoli	Flores	Pimenton
Algodón	Forestales	Pimienta
Anonaceas	Fresa	Piña
Apio	Frijol	Plantaciones Forestales
Arroz	Frutales	Plantas Medicinales
Arveja	Guanabana	Platano
Avena	Habichuela	Pompon
Banano	Hortalizas	RemoUSAID/LAChA
Batata	Lulo	Repollo
Bosques	Maiz	Roble
Brocoli	Mango	Rosas
Cacao	Mani	Semillas
Caduciifoleas	Manzanas	Sorgo
Café	Maracuya	Soya
Caná de Azúcar	Medicinales	Stevia
Caucho	Melon	Tomate
Cebada	Mora	Tomate de Arbol
Cebolla	Ornamentales	Trigo
Ciruelas	Palma Africana	Vainilla
Citricos	Palma de aceite	Viveros
Claveles	Palmito	Yuca
Crisantemos	Papa	Zanahoria
Crucíferas	Papaya	
Cucurbitáceas	Pastos	
Curuba		
Durazno		

INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION**SO2: Areas for Municipal-level Alternative Development (ADAM)****Annex II: Environmental Guidelines:**

USAID/COLOMBIA Actividades agrícolas en general

USAID/COLOMBIA Actividades agrícolas en gran escala

USAID/COLOMBIA Agroforestales y silvopastoriles

USAID/COLOMBIA Cultivos anuales de subsistencia

USAID/COLOMBIA Cultivos permanentes

USAID/COLOMBIA Especies menores

USAID/COLOMBIA Extracción de productos no maderables del bosque

USAID/COLOMBIA Ganadería extensiva
USAID/COLOMBIA Piscicultura
USAID/COLOMBIA Plantaciones forestales y extracción forestal
USAID/COLOMBIA Plantaciones Frutales
USAID/COLOMBIA Procesamiento de productos de la granja
USAID/COLOMBIA Productos no frutícolas de plantaciones
USAID/NICARAGUA Proyectos de rehabilitación de caminos rurales
USAID/SALVADOR Proyectos de reconstrucción
USAID/LAC Agricultura y Aguas
USAID/LAC Agroforestería
USAID/LAC Carreteras Rurales
USAID/LAC Conservación de suelos y aguas
USAID/LAC Construcción en pequeña escala
USAID/LAC Desechos sólidos residenciales, comerciales e industriales
USAID/LAC Ecoturismo
USAID/LAC Gestión Forestal
USAID/LAC Infraestructura
USAID/LAC Irrigación y drenaje
USAID/LAC Manejo integrado de plagas
USAID/LAC Microcentrales eléctricas
USAID/LAC Microempresas en General
USAID/LAC Pequeña minería
USAID/LAC Pequeñas y micro empresas
USAID/LAC Procesamiento de alimentos
USAID/LAC Procesamiento de pieles
USAID/LAC Producción de ladrillo y baldosas
USAID/LAC Protección de orillas de ríos
USAID/LAC Reforestación
USAID/LAC Residuos en centros de salud
USAID/LAC Sector Forestal
USAID/LAC Suministro de agua y saneamiento
USAID/LAC Textiles
USAID/LAC Vivienda
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Algodón
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Guía Ambiental para el manejo de Residuos sólidos
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Guía Ambiental para el Sector Porcícola
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Guía Ambiental para Horticultura y Fruticultura
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Manejo de Residuos sólidos
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Palma de Aceite
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Producción de Arroz
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Producción de Azúcar
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Producción de Banano
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Producción de Fique

MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Producción de Panela
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Producción de Panela
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Producción y mejoramiento de Café