



LAC-IEE-04-18

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Activity Location : LAC Regional

Activity Title : ADCOH: consultations to support the Amazon Basin Conservation Strategy

Activity Number : 598-021

Funding : \$800,000

Life of Activity : continuing

IEE Prepared by : Laura Cornwell, LAC/RSD/ENV

Recommended Threshold Decision : Categorical Exclusion

Bureau Threshold Decision : Concur with Recommendation

Comments:

This activity will support consultations to develop the Amazon Basin Conservation Strategy. Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i), a **Categorical Exclusion** is granted for this activity. It is evident that it will not have an impact on the natural or physical environment.

_____Date_____

George R. Thompson, P.E.
Bureau Environmental Officer
Bureau for Latin America & the Caribbean

Copy to : Beth Cypser, Director, LAC/SPO

Copy to : Laura Cornwell, LAC/RSD/ENV

Copy to : Janet Rudasill-Allen, LAC/SPO

Copy to : IEE File

REQUEST FOR A CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

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Recommended Threshold Decision : Categorical Exclusion

Date Prepared : December 8, 2003

RECOMMENDATION FOR THRESHOLD DECISION:

Pursuant to 22 CFR part 216.2 (c)(2)(i), a Categorical Exclusion is permitted for “Education, technical assistance, or training programs, except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment...” Consultations to support the Amazon Basin Conservation Strategy basically entails technical assistance that does not effect the physical environment. Therefore the SO team requests a **Categorical Exclusion** for this activity.

BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION

The Advancing Development Cooperation Opportunities in the Hemisphere (ADCOH) Strategic Objective provides the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) with the programming vehicle to respond to special development opportunities, foreign policy issues, legislative earmarks, and initiatives not presently covered by LAC Bureau strategic objectives. Activities under this strategic objective support: (a) innovative approaches to promoting cooperation among regional partners; (b) organizational strengthening efforts designed to improve the regional capacity to carry out development efforts; (c) special initiatives that respond to foreign policy issues but do not fall under an approved strategic plan; (d) organizations with the objective of expanding the USAID network of partners working on development problems in LAC. This Strategic Objective was approved in FY 2001.

DISCUSSION: The LAC Bureau currently has \$10 million set aside for the Amazon Conservation Strategy earmark. These funds will expire at the end of FY 2004. The Bill language indicates that:

“...not later than 1 year after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and other appropriate departments and agencies, and after consultation with appropriate governments and nongovernmental organizations, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations a strategy for biodiversity conservation in the Amazon Basin region of South America...”

Of the \$10 million set aside, \$1.5 million is for protecting the biodiversity of indigenous reserves in the Amazon Basin region of Brazil and is clearly in the Bill language as FY 04 obligation funding. These funds will be obligated by the Brazil Mission in FY 04. It is estimated that the consultation process to develop the Amazon Basin Conservation Strategy will consume another \$500,000 to \$800,000 leaving approximately \$7.3 million that will be allocated once the strategy is completed. The present activity is to fund the consultation process which is basically technical assistance.

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c) (2) (i) a **Categorical Exclusion** is requested for these activities.

Approved:

Beth Cypser
Director, LAC/SPO

Date:

Clearances:

Janet Rudasill-Allen, LAC/SPO _____

Date _____