



LAC-IEE-04-06

ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION

Activity Location	: Panama
Activity Title	: SO "Panama Sustainably Manages the Panama Canal Watershed and Buffer Areas"
Activity Number	: 525-004
Funding	: \$6 million LOP; \$3 million FY 2003
Life of Activity	: FY 2003- 2005
IEE Prepared by	: Rita Spadafora USAID/Panama
Recommended Threshold Decision	: Categorical Exclusion (for T.A., training and education) Negative Determination (for demonstration activities)
Bureau Threshold Decision	: Concur with Categorical Exclusion (for T.A., training and education) and Negative Determination with conditions (for demonstration activities)

Comments:

The activities described in the attached IEE including technical assistance, training, alliance building are not expected to have significant impacts on the environment. These activities are not subject to the procedures set forth in 22 CFR, 216.3 except to the extent provided therein. These activities qualify for a **Categorical Exclusion** per 22 CFR, 216.2(c)(2) (i), (iii), (v), and/or (xiv).

Demonstration activities such as agricultural and watershed management, rural road rehabilitation, animal husbandry, solid waste, wastewater management, clean industrial production, ecotourism, small scale construction and forestry can have potential adverse impact. These activities if properly designed and implemented will cause negligible negative impact. I have therefore concurred with a Negative Determination, however with conditions as laid out in the IEE. The conditions are that:

- environmental guidelines for this SO, recently approved in Washington, will be assiduously followed. They will be incorporated into each sub-grant approved for implementation.

- The Mission will carefully monitor these activities, using the tools in the guidelines and through the review of reports and regular inspections and will reserve the right of final review over sub-grants and activities during project implementation.
- The Mission will prepare and submit reports to the BEO and REA by the end of each fiscal year, and again at the end of the life of the project, describing whether the guidelines and mitigation measures were implemented, whether they were effective, and recommending any changes.

_____ Date _____
George R. Thompson, P.E.
Bureau Environmental Officer
Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

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