



**United Nations Development Programme**  
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY



**Date:** June 8, 2001.

**To:** Mr. Kenneth King  
Assistant CEO

**Attention:** Program Coordination

**From:** Rafael Asenjo  
GEF Executive Coordinator

**Subject:** **Submission of Medium Size Project Brief for Latin America and the Caribbean: "Management and Conservation of Wetland Biodiversity in the Esteros del Iberá"**

Enclosed is a project brief for: "Management and Conservation of Wetland Biodiversity in the Esteros del Iberá" submitted to UNDP by Fundacion Ecos, Argentina. Please note that the project has been endorsed by the GEF national operational focal points in Argentina.

In accordance with the operational guidance for the preparation and approval of medium-sized projects, we are submitting this to the GEF Secretariat for action by the Chief Executive Office (CEO). We understand that the Secretariat will recommend to the CEO that the project be submitted to the Council for approval, that it be returned for revision or that it not be developed further.

We are simultaneously circulating copies to UNEP/GEF, World Bank/GEF, STAP and the Biodiversity Convention Secretariat for comments to the GEF Secretariat. We expect to receive these comments within 15 working days. Therefore, we look forward to receiving the CEO's decision on or before July 13, 01, but understand that the project will not be formally approved, even if the CEO has endorsed it, until the Council has reviewed it within the following 15-day period, namely by August 3, 01, as part of the next work programme.

Thank you and best regards.

**cc:** Robin Burgess, UNEP  
Ahmed Djoghlaif, UNEP  
Kristin Elliot, UNEP  
Madhav Gadgil, STAP  
Mark Griffith, UNEP  
Ramon de Mesa, GEFSEC  
Francine Stevens, World Bank  
Lars Videus, World Bank  
Hamdallah Zedan, CBD  
Martha Perdomo, UNFCCC

**ARGENTINA — Esteros del Iberá  
MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT BRIEF**

1. <i>Project name:</i> Management and Conservation of Wetland Biodiversity in the Esteros del Iberá	2. <i>GEF Implementing Agency:</i> United Nations Development Programme
3. <i>Country in which the project is being implemented:</i> Argentina	Country eligibility: CBD Ratification: November 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 1994.
5. <i>GEF focal area(s):</i> Biodiversity	6. <i>Operational program/short-term measure:</i> OP2: Coastal, Marine, and Freshwater Ecosystems
<p>7. <i>Project linkage to national priorities, action plans, and programs:</i></p> <p><i>The Esteros del Iberá</i> is a large, intact, and globally important wetlands ecosystem spanning 1.2 million hectares or 14.6% of the total territory of the Province of Corrientes, Argentina (see Annex 1 - Map 1). While it is a relatively untouched and healthy ecosystem, Ibera does not benefit from any comprehensive management or protection strategy that will ensure the ecological vitality of the area in the face of hydropower, plantation forestry, industrial agriculture, and other economic developments along its borders.</p> <p><i>The Esteros del Iberá</i> region has been a priority for conservation in Argentina for many decades, and today is the largest protected area in Argentina. The Government of Argentina has made repeated efforts to incorporate the area into the national park system since 1938, although it has remained under provincial control (the area was designated by the Government of Argentina and the Province of Corrientes in 1983 as a Provincial Nature Reserve (Law N° 3371). The <i>National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan</i>, formulated under the leadership of the Argentine Secretariat for Natural Resources and Sustainable Development, recognizes the <i>Esteros</i> as a National Priority Ecoregion.</p> <p>The Argentine-Paraguay Binational Hydroelectric Authority on the Paraná River has designated <i>Esteros del Iberá</i> for support as a wetland wildlife reserve in compensation for riverine areas affected by inundation of the area behind the Yacyreta-Apipe dam. This support is channeled principally to the Estero's five core Conservation Units - Galarza, Iberá, Itatí, Yaguareté Corá and Camby Reta (Annex 1 - Map 1).</p> <p>Pursuant to its delegation as a Nature Reserve, provincial government authorities are preparing an official request to the Federal Government to seek designation of the <i>Esteros del Iberá</i> as a RAMSAR site. In support of these efforts, the European Union is currently supporting a detailed hydrological and biological study of the Reserve in collaboration with nine Universities from around the world.<sup>1</sup> As a result, RAMSAR authorities have signaled their approval of the <i>Esteros</i> as a RAMSAR site, and official designation is expected to be granted by the RAMSAR Scientific and Technical Review Panel before the end of 2001.</p>	
8. <i>GEF national operational focal point and date of country endorsement:</i> Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto (see Annex 2)	
Submitted: -- Nov. 8 <sup>th</sup> , 1999 Endorsed: -- Nov. 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 1999	Acknowledged: --- Nov. 24 <sup>th</sup> , 1999
Block A approved: June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2000	

<sup>1</sup> *Sustainable Management of Wetlands Reserve in the Mercosur: Project Iberá* carried out by University of York (England), Universidad de Siena (Italy), Universidad del Salvador (Argentina), Universidad del Centro (Argentina), Universidad de Cadiz (Spain), Universidad de Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Universidad de Aveiro (Portugal), Universidad de Campinas (Brazil), Universidad de Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil).

<p><i>9. Project objective and purpose:</i></p> <p><b>Project Objective:</b> Globally significant wetland biodiversity in a threatened ecoregion of Argentina is protected and managed for sustainable use, with the full participation of local stakeholders</p>	<p><i>Indicators:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provincial Preserve Esteros del Ibera brought under effective management</li> <li>• Documented conservation and recovery of key plant and animal species</li> <li>• Land ownership and use rights clarified, and additional areas of private land integrated into conservation management regime</li> </ul>
<p><i>10. Project outcomes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) A regional management strategy and program of activities corresponding to the Esteros basin.</li> <li>ii) Preservation and reintroduction of native threatened species.</li> <li>iii) Educational awareness raising and dissemination for stakeholders on sustainable and conservation objectives.</li> <li>iv) An alternative livelihood development strategy, emphasizing ecotourism, to diversify sources of income and reduce pressure on resources</li> <li>v) A financial strategy for meeting the recurrent costs of the Esteros Bioregional Management Program.</li> <li>vi) Institutional and legislative framework addressing the region's needs.</li> <li>vii) Land acquired and placed under conservation management</li> </ul>	<p><i>Indicators:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of local community institutions and conservation organizations trained and leading environmental advocacy activities</li> <li>• Completion of rapid biodiversity assessments and threat analyses</li> <li>• Population increases and reintroductions of threatened and endangered species.</li> <li>• Receipts from eco-tourism and sustainable productive activities</li> <li>• Long-term financing mechanism in place to support conservation and management of the area</li> <li>• A functioning body of law protecting the ecoregion.</li> </ul>
<p><i>11. Project activities to achieve outcomes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Bioregional Management Plan (\$2,111,000 or 20% of the Project)</li> <li>ii) Policy and Regulatory Reform and Incentive Systems (\$125,000 or 1% of the Project)</li> <li>iii) A Program for Native Endangered Species Management &amp; Recovery (\$950,000 or 9% of the Project)</li> <li>iv) Land Acquisition Program (\$6,000,000 or 58% of the Project)</li> <li>v) Awareness and Information Dissemination Campaign (\$425,000 or 4% of the Project)</li> <li>vi) Capacity building and training for local stakeholders (\$450,000 or 4% of the Project)</li> <li>vii) Sustainable Productive Activities and Coordinated Ecotourism Strategy (\$433,125 or 4% of the Project)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Inputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical and policy/legal assistance from local and international experts, NGOs, and government agencies</li> <li>• Support for infrastructure development from local landowners, ecotourism operators, management agencies, and conservation NGOs</li> <li>• Eleven ecological monitoring stations from EU funded Project Ibera</li> <li>• Equipment for species reintroduction and recovery activities (including airplanes and research facilities)</li> <li>• Support for community outreach activities from experienced conservation NGOs and local community leaders</li> </ul>

*12. Estimated budget (US\$):*

UNDP-GEF, Medium Size Project:	\$1,000,000
<u>Co-Financing:</u>	<u>\$9,394,125*</u>
Project Total Budget:	\$10,394,125

*\*Co-Financing*

Entidad Binacional Yacyreta	1,508,000
Provincial Government	250,000
Local Landowners	100,000
Conservation Land Trust	6,950,000
Fundacion Ecos	33,000
Foundation for Deep Ecology	300,000
Proyecto Ibera	20,000
Fundacion Vida Silvestre	25,000
<u>Ecotourism Income</u>	<u>208,125</u>
TOTAL	9,394,125

*13. Information on project proposer:*

Fundacion Ecos, Corrientes Chapter

Fundación Ecos is a non-profit educational and research center, established in April 1994, based in Uruguay for the Mercosur region and created to promote nature conservation and sustainable development and transform environmental principles into concrete action at the local, national and regional levels. Ecos is building the capacity of Mercosur leaders from different sectors to generate the changes necessary for the transition to a sustainable society and sustainable use of natural resources. The Ecos research, education and implementation programs are designed to address institutional process, policy analysis, decision-making, management and planning in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Fundacion Ecos will draw on the support of other prominent conservation organizations, as its board includes prominent leaders of Fundacion Vida Silvestre Argentina, the World Wide Fund for Nature, Fundacion Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Fundacion Moises Bertoni, Fundacion Ibera and the Conservation Land Trust.

Fundación Ecos will be working most closely with three stakeholders organizations: 1) Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina (FVSA), the most prominent nature conservation organization in Argentina and the official Argentine partner of the World Wide Fund for Nature. FVSA in its 22 years has successfully put into place and managed various conservation projects such as the Tri-National Atlantic Rainforest Park, which includes protected areas in Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil (2,000,000 hectares), a system of 18 private reserves covering over 150,000 hectares, and the Pampas Deer Project in the Province of Buenos Aires; 2) Fundación Iberá, a local NGO which over the last five years has dedicated itself exclusively to the conservation of the Esteros; and 3) Conservation Land Trust, one of the two largest foundations in the world dedicate to conserving wildlands, the Trust owns and operates the single largest privately held nature reserve in the world, the 700,000 hectare Pumalin Park in Chile.

The project will establish links with other GEF financed initiatives in the region of relevance to wetlands conservation, in particular with the Programme for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Banados del Este (PROBIDES), Uruguay, recipient of US\$ 5.5 M in GEF financing. PROBIDES will be requested to periodically assist the project in design and implementation. Similar links will be established with the proponents of the Uruguay River initiative (PDF B in final stages of clearance prior to submission to GEF), in particular with the relevant Binational Commissions.

*14. Information on proposed executing agency (if different from above):* N/A

*15. Date of initial submission of project concept:* March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2000

*16. Project identification number: PIMS #1687*

*17. Implementing Agency contact person:*

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*18. Project linkage to Implementing Agency program(s):*

The UNDP Country Cooperation Framework (CCF) for Argentina expresses a clear recognition of the continuing concern for sustainability of the resource base and the quality of the Argentine environment. The proposed project will support fulfillment of commitments made by Argentina under Agenda 21 and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and will promote the rational and sustainable development of natural resources. “Sound management of natural resources and habitat” is one of two primary thematic areas identified in the current CCF and supported by the project. The CCF also emphasizes that “UNDP will support the formulation of a national strategy for the preservation of biological diversity”, and the project will support this effort by documenting, preserving, and managing one of the areas of highest biodiversity in the country. In addition, the project’s goal of securing RAMSAR designation for the area will further clarify the importance of Ibera in the Argentina’s national biodiversity planning.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### 1. Project Rationale & Objectives

Environmental protection in Argentina currently is constrained by an ongoing economic crisis and lack of funding for environmental programs. Presently, even the National Park System is receiving only extremely limited funding, and environmental management agencies do not have the resources to develop a national priority plan or management strategy for the country's environment. As a result, efforts to establish protected areas in the country must rely on local initiatives and innovative sources of partnership and funding. This condition is particularly true in the Province of Corrientes, the province with the lowest average income in Argentina, a significant provincial debt, and a malfunctioning political system currently under the direct control of the Argentine national government.

The proposed Project is designed to increase local participation in and strengthen the existing Esteros del Ibera Provincial Preserve, a 1.2 million hectare wetland located in Corrientes Province and the largest protected area in Argentina. In so doing, the Project offers a unique opportunity to leverage the resources of an international conservation group that will purchase the remaining private land holdings within the existing protected area and put them under strict conservation management. Upon successful implementation by the proposed Project of a locally supported and comprehensive conservation management strategy for Ibera, these lands will be granted to the appropriate provincial or national conservation agency, effectively placing the entire Ibera wetlands ecosystem and its attendant biodiversity under an organized conservation regime.

Covering 12,000 km<sup>2</sup>, the *Esteros del Iberá* is one of the two largest freshwater wetlands south of the Tropic of Capricorn. Ibera stretches 250 kilometers from the southwest to the northeast, varies in width from 88 kilometers in the north, 147 kilometers in the center, and 20 kilometers in the south, and comprises a vast basin of inundated grasslands, swamps, lakes and floating islands of marsh vegetation. Of the Ibera's 1.2 million hectares, approximately 70% is water or marshy land, and the remaining 30% is dry grassland and forest (although most of the basin is at least periodically flooded).

The central portion of the *Esteros* are made up of swamps and shallow lakes less than 5 meters deep surrounded by higher land to the north, east and west. Lush aquatic vegetation grows in the marshes and lakes covering extensive areas with Water Nettle (*Cabomba australia*), Reed (*Scirpus californicus*), and Camalote (*Eichornia sp.*). Strips of floating vegetation line the lakes' borders, forming floating islands of rotted roots and soil called "embalsados" that can grow to widths of up to several hundred meters and can even become sufficiently thick to support walking or even camping. When the water level rises in the marshes following heavy rains, the embalsados periodically break free from the lagoon edges and float downstream where they clog the drainage of the *Esteros* to the Corrientes River, thus playing a very important role in the wetland's hydrology.

Scattered throughout the marshes are small islands of higher forested land, which rarely flood and are often less than 100 meters in diameter. These islands are critical habitat for many terrestrial species within Ibera. Beyond the marshes and lakes, a range of other vegetation types are found, including small pockets of subtropical rainforest; temporally inundated pastures with pockets of gallery forest, and gently undulating grasslands with scattered woodland of principally Algarrobillo (*Prosopis algarrobilla*) and Espinillo (*Acacia caven*).

Several factors combine make the Esteros del Ibera a globally significant and unique ecosystem. Besides its size, Ibera is also the only major wetland globally whose hydrologic inputs are limited to rainfall (i.e. no rivers or aquifers feed into Ibera). Ibera is also unusual in that it is one of the few highly acidic wetlands found in tropical regions, more similar to peat moss bogs than other tropical wetlands. Ibera's

pristine condition is another important factor, as the area harbors relatively large populations of certain species, such as the pampas deer, marsh deer, maned wolf, river otter, and caimans, which are nearly extinct in the surrounding regions. Ibera, which has almost no human infrastructure (including no roads at all), acts as a reproductive and recovery zone for these animal species. In addition, untouched islands of natural vegetation within Ibera, areas that have never been subjected to grazing, act as a genetic bank for certain plant species.

Ownership of the Esteros del Ibera is mixed between the Province and private landowners, although the entire area is part of the Provincial Preserve. Of the 70% of Ibera that is water or marshland, approximately 70% is public land and 30% private. Of the dry land areas, 10% is public and 90% private. The public land within Ibera is not actively managed, with the exception of five core conservation areas funded and managed by the Entidad Binacional Yacyreta (EBY), the operators of the Yacyreta dam complex on the Parana river north of Ibera. These areas, established on May 17th 1994, are Yaguareté Corá (10,000 ha), Iberá (12,000 ha), (Camby Reta 10,000 ha), Itatí (9,000 ha), and Galarza (16,000 ha). While these areas remain under the ownership of the Province, EBY has developed a protection infrastructure (outposts & guards) for the areas as part of its environmental mitigation activities in the region.

Private land holdings within the Esteros del Ibera are primarily composed of large ranches (estancias) owned by local families and some corporations. These estancias are primarily engaged in cattle ranching, although there is one rice-farming operation on the northeast border of Ibera. In addition, several large corporations have started plantation forestry on their properties, in one case (Shell Corporation) as part of a carbon offset program. The most significant private landowner, however, is the Conservation Land Trust (CLT), a Chilean-based non-governmental organization founded by Doug Tompkins. CLT has the long-term goal of buying all of the private dry land areas in Ibera (approximately 325,000 hectares) and putting it under conservation management before turning ownership over to the State. To date, CLT has acquired 110,000 hectares in various parts of Ibera, for an approximate investment of US\$10 million (it has also invested over \$175,000 to relocate squatters residing on these lands). CLT intends to acquire an additional 200-250,000 hectares over the next 10 years.

The Esteros del Ibera belongs to the "Lower Parana" region of the "Paraguay-Parana Complex", identified as 'regionally outstanding' for its 'biological distinctiveness' and 'endangered and a priority for conservation action at a regional scale', in the "Freshwater Biodiversity of Latin America and the Caribbean - A Conservation Assessment", Olson et al. (eds.) 1998, Biodiversity Support Program. A joint publication of Wetlands International & the Secretaria de Recursos Naturales y Desarrollo Sustentable of Argentina identifies the Esteros del Ibera as a key wetland site in the Western Hemisphere, Canevari, P., D. E. Blanco, E. Bucher, G. Castro & I. Davidson. 1999. Los Humedales de la Argentina).

Plant biodiversity has been very poorly studied in Ibera, and a survey of the flora of the area will be one of the first priorities of the Project. The diversity of terrestrial fauna in the Esteros del Ibera is significant, with 85 mammal, 35 reptile, and 40 amphibian species (see Annex 3). Among the endangered species found in the area are the Marsh Deer (*Blastocerus dichotomus*), the Neotropical River Otter (*Lutra longicaudatus*), the Maned Wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*), and two species of Caimans (*Caiman crocodylus* and *Caiman latirostris*). Perhaps the most threatened mammal species, and a symbol of the Esteros, is the Pampas Deer (*Ozotoceros bezoarticus celler*), an Argentine subspecies at critical risk on a global basis with less than 350 individuals existing in the wild. Several other significant mammal species, including the Jaguar, Ocelot, Giant anteater, and Giant Otter, are locally extinct but strong candidates for reintroduction as sufficient habitat still exists to support these species.

The high diversity of bird species in the area makes the Esteros del Ibera important for the conservation of avian biodiversity as well as a world-class birdwatching destination (see Annex 4). Over 350 species

inhabit Ibera, including three endemics, the White Headed Marsh Tyrant (*Fluvicola leucocephala*), the Strange Tailed Marsh Tyrant (*Alecturus risorius*) and the Saffron-cowled Blackbird or Tordo Amarillo (*Xanthospas flavus*). The latter is not only endemic to Esteros del Iberá, but also an endangered species that exists nowhere else in the world. In addition, the Esteros del Ibera is an important stop on the flyway of two migratory species protected by the U.S. Migratory Bird Act, the Osprey (*Paridion halia etus*) and the Bobolink (*Poli choryd onyzuroni*).

Aquatic biodiversity is represented by 80+ fish species including carnivorous species such as *Acestrorhynchus jenynsis* and *Apistograma corumbae*, and the famous Pirana (*Pirañas semasolus* sp.). Because the Esteros are the headwaters of the Corrientes River, important spawning areas for migratory species such as sábalo (*Prochilodus platensis*) and dorado (*Salminus maxillosus*) are found in the southerly lakes most closely connected to the River. The study “Sustainable Management of Wetland Reserves in the Mercosur: Project Iberá” is carrying out a biological inventory of fish species, which will include their conservation status, spawning area, nursery and migration routes. It is expected that this information will provide significant baseline data from which to monitor conservation efforts and their impact on safeguarding biodiversity.

The region surrounding the *Esteros del Iberá* is home to 10 settlements with an estimated total population of 17,000 people, excluding the town of Ituzaingó (1990 census), which lies on the Parana River at the northernmost boundary of the reserve. Of these 17,000 people, only 2-3,000 live on the borders of Ibera and have any regular contact with the area. Inhabitants in the area immediately surrounding Ibera primarily live in small, isolated communities or on some of the larger estancias where they are employed.

The principal economic activities and source of employment for the area are cattle ranching, rice farming, and forestry plantations. However, the cattle ranching industry is doing very poorly in the area, in part due to its isolation, and employment opportunities for locals are declining. The forestry plantations, primarily pine and eucalyptus, are expanding on the higher, dry ground to the west of Ibera (outside of the Provincial Preserve) as part of a provincial plan to bring up to a million hectares of land into wood production. In addition, many locals also engage in commercial or subsistence hunting, often to augment their regular income (including approximately 50-100 poachers who live illegally on some of the dry highland areas within Ibera).

A growing number of local inhabitants work in the ecotourism industry, which has grown rapidly in recent years. There are four operating ecotourism lodges/operation on the eastern edge of Ibera, another on the northwestern side, and a world-class fishing lodge on the southern edge of Ibera focused on a thriving dorado sport fishing industry (see Annex 1 – Map 2). The dorado fishery is controlled and sustainably managed by provincial authorities, and all of the fishing is on a catch-and-release basis.

## **2. Past and Current “Baseline” Situation**

To date, human impacts in the Esteros del Ibera have been limited, and the area remains a valuable resource for local communities and native species alike. However, the pristine nature of Ibera is due more to the remote location and scarcity of “productive” land that characterize the area than to concerted and effective efforts for its protection. No effective management regime exists for Ibera, as a lack of funding, low public awareness and political support, and an unclear ownership and right-of-use situations persists.

In vision and strategic planning meetings carried out during Project development, key stakeholders identified the critical activities that must take place to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of Ibera. Capacity building for local stakeholders, including community leaders and local



conservation NGOs, must take place to allow for effective community involvement. Clarification of existing ownership and use rights must be achieved to allow for integrated planning and to incentivize long-term planning. Funding sources must be created and effectively managed so that programs can be implemented and sustained over the long-term. Information, education, and communication campaigns must be developed to promote support for Ibera at the local, provincial and national levels. The Project, in achieving these objectives, will create a sustainable management regime for Ibera, will enhance local livelihoods, and will conserve a natural area of global importance.

The Esteros del Ibera is a relatively untouched environment where basic ecological functions and a diversity of habitats and ecological niches still exist. In the aquatic/marshland area of the Esteros, the only significant impact thus far has been from hunting of select species. In the dry land area, however, fauna and flora have been more impacted, in part from hunting, and in part from habitat destruction resulting from cattle grazing. Species such as the Blue Macaw, Jaguar, Peccary, Ocelot, Giant Otter and Giant Anteater are already gone from the area (or, in the case of the Blue Macaw, extinct). Currently, entire plant communities, such as the Dwarf Palm Savanna, are threatened throughout their range by cattle grazing and fire management practices.

Traditional human impacts such as hunting and grazing are not the only threats facing Ibera today. Economic activities currently limited to the borders of the area, such as exotic pine and eucalyptus plantations and rice farming, are poised to move into the Esteros unless appropriate interventions take place. Perhaps most importantly, the water level of the Esteros, which regulates almost every ecological aspect of the area, could be fundamentally altered by activities associated with the neighboring Yacyreta dam complex.

The primary threats facing the Esteros del Ibera today are the following:

- a) **Cattle Ranching:** While most cattle are kept outside of the Ibera, approximately 500 head of cattle graze within the reserve area. These cattle pose a direct threat to the Pampas Deer, Red Brocket Deer, Marsh Deer, Capybara, and other grazing animals native to the area, both through the risk they present of transmitting hoof and mouth disease and brucellosis, and from the competition they create for diminished food supplies during seasonal flooding. In addition, ranchers engage in burning of grasslands to stimulate tender herbaceous undergrowth for grazing, thereby eliminating wildlife habitat for native species.
- b) **Rice Farming:** This activity also is mostly located outside of the reserve area itself. Nevertheless, there has been some conversion of wetlands into agricultural land for rice farming, and rice farmers are known to poison native waterfowl in order to protect their crops and to use pesticides and herbicides intensively, with attendant consequences for water quality and wildlife within the Esteros.
- c) **Tree Plantations:** Currently, there are approximately 150,000 hectares of eucalyptus and pine plantations along the borders of the Esteros, and another 80,000 hectares within the reserve itself (which the current owner is already negotiating to sell to the Conservation Land Trust). These plantations, many of which have been planted by large multinational companies as carbon offsets, threaten to drastically reduce the limited dry upland habitat within the Esteros. In addition, they pose the threat of agrochemical runoff that threatens water quality, and water demand that could decrease the overall water level of the Esteros, particularly in the critical dry season.
- d) **Illegal Residents:** Currently, 50-100 persons occupy some of the scarce higher ground within the wetlands, most of them illegally, although a few have occupancy rights. Human presence in these areas prevents the use of these islands of drier land by species such as the Maned Wolf, the Marsh Deer and the Capybara, for whom these areas constitute a critical habitat. In addition, most of these

human occupants within the reserve use these areas as bases for illegal hunting.

- e) **Hunting:** Hunting is forbidden for almost all species within the Esteros, the notable exception being a limited legal take of capybara. However, intensive poaching by locals is endangering rare species and reducing the potential for ecotourism within the area. Endangered species such as caiman, the river otter, and the marsh deer continue to be hunted. Even the last remaining herd of Pampas Deer, numbering only several hundred animals and in danger of extinction, continues to be hunted by workers on the forest plantations within and bordering Ibera. Preventing hunting within the Esteros is critical as the size, condition, and difficulty of access of this area has made it the home of the largest remaining populations of many species.
  
- f) **Hydrological Change:** In the past three years, the water level of the Esteros del Ibera has risen by 50 centimeters, reducing the dryland in the area and causing unknown changes to water chemistry and hydrological functions that support plant and animal life. The cause of this water level rise is unknown, although tectonic activity, biomass accumulation preventing outflows from the southern end of the Esteros, and increased rainfall all have been posited. There is mounting evidence, however, that water from the reservoir of the massive Yacyreta dam on the Parana river, which is located adjacent to the Esteros del Ibera, is seeping into the Esteros and causing this rise in water level. In addition, the Entidad Binacional Yacyreta (EBY), the entity that manages the dam, intends to raise the level of the reservoir from its current 76 meters to 83 meters in 2005-6. The effects of such an increase cannot be accurately predicted, but even a 1-meter rise in the level of the Esteros would eliminate 2/3 of the dry land within the reserve, thus rapidly eliminating critical ecological niches for many of the region's species. Even if some of these areas are eventually recovered as the Esteros reaches a new hydrological equilibrium, it is likely that some resident animal and plant populations will disappear, and that many rare ecosystem types will be greatly reduced in area or even eliminated.

These direct threats to Ibera stem from a host of underlying conditions that constitute the root causes of ecological destruction in the area, including poor stewardship, unclear land ownership, funding constraints, and economic underdevelopment in the area. For example, the Esteros del Ibera Provincial Preserve suffers from inoperative stewardship and today can be defined as a paper park. The management program undertaken by EBY covers an area no greater than 5% of the preserve with ill-equipped, under-staffed and sporadically financed game wardens. Laws protecting the preserve are unclear and incomplete, and no plans or decrees on management of the area have ever been issued, much less implemented. As a result, private landowners are planting monoculture forest plantations and running cattle herds in areas which should be under protection. In addition, there is currently no organized and expert effort to prevent the potential catastrophic change in the water level of Ibera from the Yacyreta dam complex. If a link between the water levels at Yacyreta and Ibera is only established and addressed once the Yacyreta water level rises, it will be too late at that juncture to examine and offer alternatives and reverse institutional and political decisions.

The impact of poor stewardship is in part due to the unclear land tenure situation in Ibera, where the true proportion of private vs. public land is unknown by any. There exists a "general idea" that 95% of the surface area of Ibera is private, but not even Provincial authorities have an accurate estimate. As a result, private landowners often manage operations (including cattle and rice farming) on lands they consider their own but which in fact may be public. Uncertainty over ownership creates disincentives for long-term sustainable management, precludes integrated resource-use zoning, and increases the difficulty of creating appropriate protection mechanisms.

An inability to protect the resources of Ibera within the existing management framework is further exacerbated by a distinct funding shortfall. Currently, the Province of Corrientes provides no money for

the Provincial Preserve. EBY provides funds for the salaries of a preserve director and 9 park guards, as well as for some infrastructure, maintenance and equipment, but almost all of this funding is limited to activities in the five core conservation areas. However, even these funds are poorly managed, with no local input or oversight. As a result, the vast majority of the Esteros del Ibera is under no protection or management regime whatsoever.

Finally, economic underdevelopment in the region surrounding Ibera creates greater demands on Ibera and threatens efforts at sustainable management activities. Poverty among local communities in the region of Ibera causes the inhabitants to participate in illegal hunting of native species, both for cash income and to increase protein intake. For local landowners, the increasing unprofitability of cattle ranching is leading to the rise of rice farming and plantation forestry. While cattle ranching presents some environmental problems in the Ibera landscape, the impacts of plantation forestry and rice farming are much more severe. In addition, the gradual change in ownership from cattle-ranching families with longstanding ties in the area, many of whom support conservation and ban hunting on their lands, to absentee corporate owners involved in plantation forestry and with little commitment to the area, will make the development of locally supported conservation efforts more difficult.

Although management capacity and efforts for the Esteros del Ibera remain inadequate, concern for preserving the environment of Ibera is increasing among the general public and policy makers. Fundacion Ibera has become a strong voice for conservation within Corrientes, and has focused its efforts over the past 5 years on public outreach and alliance building. As a result, local communities and their leaders have become involved for the first time in the debate regarding Ibera, and are now convinced that conservation will promote economic development in the area. In addition, concerted efforts to generate political support for conservation of Ibera among provincial leaders has met with success, although the financial crisis in the province has precluded increased funding.

Emerging support for actively conserving Ibera has translated into limited conservation measures. Hunting has been effectively shut down in some areas by increased guard patrols, relocation of squatters, and the elimination of some entry points into Ibera. Steps have been taken to improve the conservation and management of the five core conservation areas managed by EBY, where Fundacion Ibera has been attempting, with some success, to institute a process whereby EBY channels its financial support of these areas to a locally managed conservation consortium. This strategy has the potential to greatly increase the efficiency and local support of management of Ibera, as evidenced by the experience in Paraguay, where EBY already has been implemented a similar management agreement with the Fundacion Moises Bertoni. Preliminary commitments from the Argentine national government to improve roads in the area may also serve conservation purposes by enabling ecotourism.

The most significant recent development for conservation of Ibera is the involvement of the Conservation Land Trust. CLT, one of the largest foundations in the world dedicated to conserving wildlands, has already purchased approximately 110,000 hectares in the *Esteros del Ibera*. These lands, primarily large estancias or cattle ranches, are being purchased from large private landowners on a voluntary basis. In some cases, current (non-indigenous) residents have been made to leave these newly purchased areas. However, these are illegal squatters engaged in poaching on these lands, and CLT has developed an organized relocation assistance effort for these persons. Once purchased, CLT has set aside all of these lands as core conservation areas, and is now in the process of developing conservation management plans for to guide their use and protection. Pending successful implementation of these plans, and the finalization of agreements with the Provincial Preserve authorities (or any other future management regime), CLT will eventually transfer ownership of the lands to the State. This strategy is modeled on existing CLT projects in Chile, and also has precedent in CLT's involvement with the World Bank/GEF "Native Forests and Protected Areas" Project. In the latter, CLT is working with in cooperation with the Argentina National Parks Administration and the Secretariat of Natural Resources and Sustainable

Development to purchase and set aside land for the creation of the Monte Leon National Park in Santa Cruz Province, Argentina.

Finally, support for conservation in Ibera is being enhanced by a growing ecotourism industry in the region. The five core conservation areas managed by EBY maintain primitive campgrounds, and three ecotourism lodges, each receiving 800-1000 visitors/year, are operating on the eastern side of Ibera. On Ibera's northwest border, the privately owned San Juan de Porriahu private reserve, a 13,000 hectare reserve and key habitat for threatened birdlife, hosts close to 2,000 visitors/year, including many scientific researchers. In addition, a newly built, high-end fishing resort at the southern end of Ibera attracts fishermen from around the world for the area's dorado sport fishery. In all, Ibera receives between 3-5,000 visitors/year, 30% of whom are foreign. These numbers are likely to increase greatly once international recognition and marketing of Ibera take place, and additionally if the government completes its plans to improve access roads into the area.

Most tourists visiting Ibera stay for 2-3 nights, and pay US\$80/night for accommodations and tours of Ibera (costs at the fishing lodge are much higher). They receive guided tours by boat through the Esteros, available in Spanish, English, German and Italian, and often visit a working estancia as well. Many visitors to Ibera come specifically for the birdwatching, both because of the high avian biodiversity in the area (over 350 species), and because the varied and open topography, with areas of open water, marshes, grasslands, and forested islands, offers an ideal setting for seeing many species. Special birdwatching tours are already being conducted in Ibera, with customers coming from around the world to see such rare and colorful birds as the Blue Blanca (Egretta alba), Rosy Spatula (Platalea ajaja), Colorado Federal (Amblyramphus oloseirceus), Lavandera (Fluvicola leucocephala), and the majestic Black Eagle (Buteogallus urubitinga).

Despite the growth of ecotourism and increasing support in the local area and the province for better protecting Ibera, institutions, mechanisms and resources for achieving a balanced conservation and management regime remain inadequate. The proposed Project, by activating the participation and support of local and regional stakeholders, and establishing a coordinated and capable management regime integrated with many partners, will transform efforts to preserve Ibera from piecemeal activities to a comprehensive strategy. A legally established management institution, with widespread support and long-term sustainability, will exist to negotiate with and manage the large economic and social actors (plantation forestry operators, multinational resource authorities, wealthy landowners) whose activities are critical to the future of Ibera. This new management regime will also transform conservation efforts for Ibera from reactive programs focused on current problems to proactive and preventive activities at exactly the time when they are most needed and can be most effective. If efforts to establish an organized and effective conservation regime for Ibera are not undertaken now, the fundamental hydrological balance of the South America's second largest wetland may be permanently altered, and the last remaining global populations of endemic species including the Saffron-Cowled Blackbird (*Xanthospas flavus*) and a subspecies of the Pampas Deer (*Ozotoceros bezoarticus celler*) will disappear.

### **3. Expected Project Outcomes**

#### Project Objective:

The Project will implement a participatory management for resource use and conservation in the Esteros del Ibera based on a comprehensive regional management strategy. The goal of the strategy will be the long-term production of this ecosystem's goods and services for local, national and global benefits. An underlying premise of this approach is that the global biodiversity benefits to be achieved by this project are unlikely to be sustained without concomitant benefits accruing to local stakeholders.

## Project Outcomes:

This project is expected to result in the following principal outcomes:

**Outcome 1:** A regional management strategy and program of activities corresponding to the Esteros del Ibera basin, and managed by a multistakeholder Conservation & Management Committee.

**Outcome 2:** Policy and regulatory reform in the management of the Esteros del Ibera, including a new legal designation (RAMSAR status, Provincial or National Park status); clarification of existing ownership and use rights; and development of regulatory changes and financial incentives for cattle ranching, forestry, and agriculture sectors to motivate adherence to the program's conservation objectives.

**Outcome 3:** Native endangered species recovered and protected, with key habitat areas identified and protected from human activity.

**Outcome 4:** Land acquired and designated for conservation, with a majority of the currently private land in the area converted from productive or mixed use into conservation areas.

**Outcome 5:** An environmentally educated and aware stakeholder base, including local populations, local politicians and decision-makers, estancia owners, resource users and tour operators, who understand the importance of conserving the environment of the Esteros del Ibera.

**Outcome 6:** Strengthened and professional local conservation management and advocacy groups, (Fundacion Ecos Corrientes, Fundacion Ibera, Conservation Land Trust), with training and resources to ensure continued effective advocacy for the area.

**Outcome 7:** An improved and diversified local economic base, with an expanded ecotourism industry based on sound ecological principles, and adoption of new sustainable productive activities.

## **4. Activities & Financial Inputs Needed to Enable Changes**

### **4.1 Bioregional Management Plan (\$2,111,000 or 20% of the Project)**

- 4.1.1 Rapid biodiversity assessments, a survey of flora diversity, and analysis of scale and geographical scope of threats and impacts from agriculture (tree plantations, rice farming) and hunting (commercial, sport and subsistence). Project will integrate results of European Union funded study of ecological effects of plantation forestry, cattle ranching, and rice farming (to be completed September 2001).
- 4.1.2 A database containing existing scientific research and technical studies on the Esteros will be compiled and integrated into project planning, including results of the EU-financed "*Project Ibera: Sustainable Management of Wetlands Reserve in the Mercosur*", and updates from ongoing research, including rapid biodiversity assessments and applied studies on land tenure, legal frameworks, and wildlife management.
- 4.1.3 Provision of essential infrastructure necessary to implement the Bioregional Management Plan such as control posts, trails, signs, communications, and appropriate administration and interpretation facilities, and management of existing environmental monitoring stations for water, soil, and meteorological conditions.
- 4.1.4 Workshops with government officials and NGO staff on initial findings from the above activities

and how these can translate into specific strategies to mitigate threats to Ibera.

- 4.1.5 Consultations with local communities, local landowners, and ecotourism operators, and creation of a Local Advisory Committee for the Bioregional Management Plan, ensuring that its objectives, outputs and activities are based on specific contextual knowledge, as well as scientific assessments, and are supported by local communities.
- 4.1.6 Creation of a multistakeholder Conservation & Management Committee to coordinate and oversee implementation of the Regional Management Plan, consisting of 1 person from local municipalities, 1 person from Fundacion Ibera, 1 person representing the Province of Corrientes, 1 person representing private landowners, 1 person from Fundacion Vida Silvestre, and 2 people from Fundacion Ecos Corrientes.
- 4.1.7 Creation of a Regional Management Plan, incorporating policy dialogue, an incentive/regulatory framework to motivate adherence to conservation objectives and implementation of alternative income-generating activities, conservation training, monitoring techniques, species and habitat management, enforcement, conflict resolution, awareness-raising, and the development of an ecotourism strategy and guidelines to enhance capacities for alternative income generating activities.

#### **4.2 Policy and Regulatory Reform and Incentive Systems (\$125,000 or 1% of the Project)**

- 4.2.1 Review of existing legal framework guiding resource use and sectoral activity in the Esteros (particularly in cattle; rice, and forestry sectors); identification of current inconsistencies with conservation and sustainable uses; and on the basis of consultations with relevant stakeholders, suggest and draft legal modifications (e.g. remove municipal and provincial tax codes that encourage vegetation burning for forage improvement and fire prevention)
- 4.2.2 Apply existing regulations that preclude plantation forestry within Provincial Preserve; reduce impacts of existing forest plantations and limit establishment of future plantations to lands further from borders of Esteros; expand existing outreach efforts to local forest plantation owners (including Pecom Forrestal, Shell, and Perez Companc) to secure cooperation and financial support for Project's conservation goals
- 4.2.3 Establishment by Conservation and Management Committee of team of legal experts, scientists, and policy advisors to assess and represent local interests vis-à-vis activities associated with the Yacyreta dam complex
- 4.2.4 Review and modification of current legal framework (laws and decrees) supporting conservation in the project area, including public access, easement and land titling, exact boundaries, and conversion of conservation status from Provincial Reserve to Provincial Park and designation as RAMSAR site.
- 4.2.5 Coordinated campaign with local community leaders and provincial leaders to promote designation of Esteros del Ibera as a RAMSAR site, using existing expressed support of local stakeholders and current provincial and national governments

#### **4.3 A Program for Native Endangered Species Protection, Management & Recovery (\$950,000 or 9% of the Project)**

- 4.3.1 Immediate establishment of warden patrols, monitoring, and other protection measures for highly endangered populations within Ibera, in particular the last remaining herd of the Pampas Deer subspecies (*Ozotoceros bezoarticus celler*)
- 4.3.2 Development of a management, breeding and reintroduction program for locally threatened and/or extinct native species, including consultations and active collaboration with leading authorities<sup>2</sup> on best practices and successful experiences in areas with similar ecological and

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<sup>2</sup> Proponents have long-standing relationships with and committed support for species reintroduction work with the World Wildlife Fund, the Wildlife Conservation Society, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the

socio-cultural conditions.

- 4.3.3 Continued application of a collaborative squatter relocation program managed by the Conservation Land Trust, on lands purchased by CLT, to reduce pressure on native endangered species and improve odds of recovery
- 4.3.4 Recovery of fish species populations affected by hydrological changes to Ibera

#### **4.4 Land Acquisition Program (\$6,000,000 or 58% of the Project)**

- 4.4.1 Acquisition of current private land holdings within the Esteros del Ibera by Conservation Land Trust, with projected acquisitions of 120,000 hectares during Project period, and eventual total acquisition of 300,000 hectares within Esteros del Ibera
- 4.4.2 Land acquired to be designated as conservation areas, conservation management plans developed and implemented, and ecotourism facilities established

#### **4.5 Awareness and Information Dissemination Campaign (\$425,000 or 4% of the Project)**

- 4.5.1 A program of awareness raising and education for local inhabitants, in particular employees of the plantation forests, on the importance of ending hunting of endangered species, including the last remaining herd of the Pampas Deer subspecies (*Ozotoceros bezoarticus celler*)
- 4.5.2 Workshops for local stakeholders to raise environmental awareness and support for conservation, and to develop support and mechanisms for the on-going active participation of civil society in the conservation and management of the Esteros
- 4.5.3 Public outreach campaign, including extensive school visits, to raise the awareness of the general public in Corrientes province as to the Estero's importance for local development and income diversification, and local, regional and global environmental quality
- 4.5.4 Two alliance-building workshops for provincial and national leaders to demonstrate the economic and development advantages of an effectively managed and internationally recognized Esteros, including increased tourism income, increased international conservation funding sources, and a diversified regional economy
- 4.5.5 Design and dissemination of awareness-raising materials (brochures, radio spots) based on key conservation messages tailored to different user and decision-making groups

#### **4.6 Capacity building and training for local stakeholders (\$450,000 or 4% of the Project)**

- 4.6.1 Support for increased conservation management personnel and equipment, including additional staff for local conservation NGOs (Fundacion Ecos and Fundacion Ibera), additional and more well-trained rangers for core conservation areas and the overall Esteros, and trained ecotourism guides.
- 4.6.2 Development and implementation of conservation training workshops led by conservation experts for reserve personnel, relevant government officials, NGO staff and local communities on oversight, implementation and monitoring of the Bioregional Management Plan.
- 4.6.3 Consultations and discussions on the capacity building needs of stakeholders to implement the proposed Bioregional Management Plan and eco-tourism strategy (for instance, need for participatory decision making structures, training in various aspects of conservation management and ecologically sound eco-tourism, mechanism for the equitable distribution of profits and a proportionate share to sustain conservation efforts, etc).
- 4.6.4 Training workshops, targeting productive sector entrepreneurs in the cattle ranching, agricultural and forestry sectors, to determine and develop best practice models and replicable guidelines for

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Conservation Land Trust, and Fundacion Vida Silvestre (which has specific experience with the Pampas Deer and other wetlands species).

sustainable ruminant management, organic rice cultivation, and tree plantation development consistent with conservation objectives.

- 4.6.5 The strategy to ensure effective implementation of the activities to achieve the project's outcomes includes building the capacities of the implementing NGO and its local allies, as well as establishing or strengthening partnerships with key NGOs and others who have expertise or other support to offer. The Project will continue linkages established during the PDF-A development phase with the Programme for Sustainable Development and Biodiversity Conservation in the Eastern Wetlands of Uruguay (PROBIDES), currently in its second phase of project implementation with GEF and EU support. The situation in the Eastern Wetlands shares many similarities with Ibera, including threats to biodiversity originating from rice farming, cattle ranching, poaching, forestry plantations and unsustainable water management, and lessons learned in that project have been and will continue to be applied.
- 4.6.6 A strategy for ensuring the long-term financing of activities in support of the Project's goals after the Project terms ends will be formalized and implemented.

#### **4.7 Sustainable Productive Activities and Coordinated Ecotourism Strategy (\$433,125 or 4% of the Project)**

- 4.7.1 Work with local communities to develop sustainable productive activities such as fishing, duck hunting (in conjunction with rice farming) and sustainable animal farming (based on successful caiman and capybara farming in neighboring Misiones province)
- 4.7.2 Improve access to regional markets for local goods and services (continue dialogue with national government to promote new road construction).
- 4.7.3 Socio-economic analysis of eco-tourism potential in the project area, including consultations with tourism entrepreneurs to gauge viability and demand, and analysis of the capacity to generate revenues for conservation while respecting ecological needs.
- 4.7.4 Training of key stakeholders in implementing and monitoring a community-led, conservation-oriented eco-tourism program, including training of local guides
- 4.7.5 Ecotourism infrastructure development on public lands, including improvement of the existing visitor center in Pelligrini, establishment of a second visitor center on the northwest border of Ibera, creation of a series of camping sites (on elevated platforms) within the Ibera, and purchase/development of necessary supplies (boats, radios, guidebooks, etc.)
- 4.7.6 Creation of three new ecotourism lodges on Conservation Land Trust properties with associated boat and walking tours
- 4.7.7 Integrated management and marketing of ecotourism lodges, allowing visitors to combine visits to pristine conservation areas with fishing activities and visits to working estancias
- 4.7.8 Design and coordination of an ecotourism marketing campaign, focused on birdwatchers (in conjunction with Birdlife International and the National Audubon Society), sportfishers (for the very popular dorado fishery), and tourists from Buenos Aires (passing area on visits to Iguazu falls), and using the new RAMSAR designation and potential third-party certification to enhance visibility.

### **5. SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

#### **5.1 Institutional Sustainability**

The Conservation & Management Committee composed of stakeholders and supported by a technical scientific committee will remain operative after the Project term has ended. A staff of trained and motivated game wardens will be in place to carry out protection and conservation activities. Local conservation NGOs, including Fundacion Ibera, Fundacion Ecos, and the Conservation Land Trust, will be strengthened and have established and professional staff with experience in Ibera.



In addition, awareness and consciousness raising processes for public and political support for the area are a key component of the Project, and will ensure not only local support but also regional and national support for the area. Already, burgeoning public enthusiasm for the area is demonstrated by the increase in visitors to Ibera, which thus far has been limited only by the scarce facilities and lack of adequate access roads.

## **5.2 Financial Sustainability**

Funding to support the long-term conservation and management goals promoted by the Project will come from numerous sources:

Entrance fees from visitors and use/license fees from ecotourism operators will provide an ongoing source of revenue for the area. Even with the minimal ecotourism facilities and poor access roads existing today, Ibera receives 3-5 thousand visitors/year. Projected expansion of ecotourism facilities, and the strong possibility that the provincial or national government will improve roads in the area, should greatly increase this number and associated revenues. In addition, fees charged for the sustainable use of wildlife within the Esteros, including fishing and fishing operator licenses, sustainable ranching of caiman and capybara ranching, hunting licenses (for duck hunting in areas of organic rice farming) should produce income for the operators and the conservation process.

Designation as a RAMSAR site and increased visibility and status as a tourist designation will promote increases in government support at both the provincial and national level. If and when Ibera receives designation as a National Park, the national government will take responsibility for funding all conservation activities. The Project will also pursue continuation of the existing tax on land transfers in Corrientes that provides funds for conservation activities.

The binational hydroelectric authority (EBY) is legally committed to continuing its financial support (\$18,000/month) of the five core conservation areas. During the Project, an effort will be made to secure the agreement of EBY to place money under direct control of Regional Management Committee (this has taken place already in Paraguay, where EBY pays funds directly to Fundacion Moises Bertoni).

The Conservation Land Trust will provide long-term support for the outreach and management coordination activities of Fundacion Ibera, for land acquisitions, and for species reintroduction programs (the last projected to last for at least ten years). In addition, the Wildlife Conservation Society, which has already provided significant free consulting on wildlife conservation and management strategies, is committed to continue this work over the long-term.

Finally, the Project will study the value of the Esteros as a carbon sink, and the possibility of securing investment in the Esteros by corporations looking for carbon offset credits, or support from multilateral agencies (IDB, EU) with programs focused on global warming.

## **5.3 Project Risks**

Uncertainty regarding water levels/seepage from the Yacyreta dam reservoir poses a significant and long-term risk to the hydrological cycle and overall ecosystem health of the Esteros del Ibera. The Project will address this risk directly by implementing hydrological studies of this issue to determine the existing and potential future impacts of the reservoir on Ibera. Indirectly, the Project will raise the international and domestic profile of Ibera, and enhance local awareness and support for the area, as means of developing a broad-based alliance to ensure that the managers of the Yacyreta complex (EBY) respect the ecological health of this globally unique area.

Another potential risk to completion of the Project's objectives is the independent status and non-binding involvement of the key stakeholder Conservation Land Trust, and the possibility that it could eliminate its land acquisition program and/or support for conservation activities. However, although CLT is under no obligation to continue its activities, it is legally committed, through the provincial tax rebates that it enjoys on land acquisitions, to manage the lands it purchases for conservation. The amount of land that CLT has already purchased under these conditions, combined with the existing fiscal land, is sufficient to create a viable conservation area that would preserve many of Ibera's most important species and functions. In addition, other landowners in the area support conservation and would not be likely to manage their lands in such a way as to conflict with conservation goals. Finally, CLT has a strong track record for cooperative programs with governments in both Chile and Argentina, including its participation with the Argentina National Park System in the purchase and donation of land for the Monte Leon National Park in Santa Cruz Province.

Road construction in the area of the Esteros del Ibera also poses potential risks to the successful completion of the Project's goals. The national government's preliminary plans to improve the existing road along the eastern edge of Ibera will likely lead to an increase in ecotourism, and a rapid growth in visitors to the area could have negative impacts on the natural ecosystem. In addition, improved access from roads could increase settlement in the area, and could affect drainage patterns in Ibera and exacerbate any problems associated with increased water levels. The project will address the risk of ecotourism impacts through its emphasis on a coordinated and sustainable ecotourism program for the entire region, with limitations on human activity in accordance with Ibera's natural carrying capacities. As for settlers, the continuing remoteness and lack of economically productive land in the area will limit settlement activity. In addition, the Project's emphasis on strengthening the overall management regime for the area will create an effective and enforceable management regime that, with the cooperation of participating local communities, can limit and control the location and impacts of settlers. Finally, this new management regime also will ensure that impacts from infrastructure projects in the region are properly assessed, and if necessary, mitigated by the appropriate authorities.

## **6. STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT**

Local stakeholders and other parties have been involved in development of the Project from its inception, and ensuring full participation by key stakeholders was the main focus of the PDF-A activities in preparation of this brief. Two 2-day participative planning sessions were conducted, involving over 50 representatives of local communities, landowners and ecotourism operators, provincial authorities, conservation and management agencies, and expert consultants. Among the participants were:

- Municipal representatives from eight local communities
- Local landowners, forestry plantation managers (Pecom Forrestal), and ecotourism operators from San Juan de Porriahu, El Tránsito, Guayaibí, San Alonso and San Marcos
- Government representatives from the Province of Corrientes, the National Government, and the Entidad Binacional Yacyreta
- Local non-governmental organizations including Fundación Iberá, Fundación Vida Silvestre, and Fundación Ecos Corrientes, and the Conservation Land Trust

Participation by local stakeholders is particularly important in this project, as Corrientes Province is one of the poorest provinces in Argentina (and the only one with management problems severe enough that the national government has taken over management of the Province). To ensure the full cooperation and active participation of local communities, the proposed Project is designed to provide direct benefits to the residents of Corrientes, and in particular to the inhabitants of the area immediately surrounding Ibera.

The latter group, most of whom live in some of the least developed communities in the province, will benefit from employment in ecotourism, reserve management, and sustainable fishing and hunting and the revenues that these activities bring to the local economy. In addition, planned road improvements will improve the access of isolated communities to outside markets and job opportunities.

The proposed project will also benefit the province at-large, as significant financial resources are applied by GEF and co-financers for infrastructure improvements. The increase in ecotourism, and potential development of sustainable wildlife uses, will help to diversify the provincial economy and increase the visibility of Corrientes within Argentina. Finally, anticipated establishment of a national park in Ibera over the long-term will strengthen the Argentine National Park System and provide a model of private/provincial/national cooperation for other areas in the country.

While the participation of all stakeholders will be important, two of the Project partners will play an especially critical role in implementing the Project's activities and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Project's goals:

**Fundacion Ibera**

This local NGO has over the last five years dedicated itself exclusively to the conservation of the Esteros del Ibera. Fundacion Ibera was legally created in 1992 and has 10 founders from Corrientes province. Fundación Ibera is identified in Corrientes as the local advocate or "face" of Ibera, and is consulted by local and provincial authorities on many matters relating to the area. It also participates in many of the management decisions made by EBY in Ibera, and has acted as the official local representative to the EU-sponsored Project Ibera. Fundacion Ibera has been most active on issues relating to plantation forestry, illegal hunting and wildlife management, water management for rice farms, and the Yacyreta dam issue. Although it plays a critical role in promoting the environmental protection of Ibera, Fundacion Ibera has always been staffed primarily by volunteers and supported by the participation of board members. Strengthening and professionalizing Fundacion Ibera is critical to establishing a strong and consistent advocate for conservation in Ibera (for which the Deep Ecology Foundation has pledged \$300,000 over the next 3 years).

**Fundacion Vida Silvestre**

This organization, based in Buenos Aires and staffed by experts in policy, science, law, and economics, is the preeminent environmental conservation group in Argentina. Among its areas of expertise relevant to Ibera, Fundacion Vida Silvestre has experience with wetlands projects (it helped to establish the Samborombon Wetland Reserve, managing coordination with local municipalities and provincial governments) and with species reintroduction programs (it managed a Pampas deer reintroduction program and has longstanding agreements to work with the Wildlife Conservation Society on other reintroduction programs). For the proposed Project, Fundacion Vida Silvestre will work at the provincial and national policy level, will assist in capacity building for Fundacion Ibera, will assist with fund raising at the international level, and will be available to act as a consultant on numerous issues/activities as needed.

**7. INCREMENTAL COST ASSESSMENT**

	BASELINE (B)	ALTERNATIVE (A)	INCREASE (A-B)
Global Benefits	Unclear ownership/use rights and inoperative management regime leading to loss of globally significant	Clarification of legal issues and strengthening of management mechanisms ensure protection of Ibera	Ibera's ecological functions as biodiversity reserve and area for species recovery and reintroduction assured

	<p>biodiversity and unique ecosystem</p> <p>Limited funding preventing required biodiversity conservation and management</p>	<p>biodiversity</p> <p>Implementation of strategies to attract and better manage new and existing financial resources</p>	<p>Sustained public and private sector co-financing for a sustainable Ibera biodiversity conservation and management program</p>
Domestic Benefits	<p>Limited economic alternatives for local landowners/communities creating threats to Argentina's largest protected area</p> <p>Local communities have limited capacity or voice for input into management decisions</p>	<p>Development of alternative economic activities and financial incentives reduce resource use and land transformation pressures</p> <p>Local awareness and capacity for management increased, and mechanisms for participation developed</p>	<p>Local communities benefiting from sustainable economic activities, and local landowners using conservation management or more sustainable productive practices</p> <p>Community participation in management and conservation decisions</p>
Output 1	<p>Existing Provincial Preserve providing limited protection and management of Esteros del Ibera</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>Infrastructure &amp; protection of five conservation areas \$1,456,000 (Entidad Binacional Yacyreta)</p> <p>Study of Ibera ecological conditions \$1,000,000 (European Union)</p>	<p>Participatory methods used to create Conservation &amp; Management Committee and develop regional management strategy</p> <p>\$4,567,000</p>	<p>Coordinated and effective locally supported conservation regime managing the resources of Ibera</p> <p>\$2,111,000</p> <p>GEF: \$300,000 Co-Financing: \$1,761,000</p>
Output 2	<p>Unclear ownership and use rights, and low public profile and support for area</p> <p>\$0</p>	<p>Legal status and designations of Ibera reserve changed; ownership, use rights and regulations assessed and modified</p> <p>\$125,000</p>	<p>Esteros del Ibera under enhanced legal status and international recognition, and land use rights clarified within sustainability framework</p> <p>\$125,000</p> <p>GEF: \$125,000 Co-Financing: \$0</p>
Output 3	<p>Native endangered species without protection; no recovery plans implemented</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>Preliminary studies of endangered species \$42,500 (Conservation Land Trust)</p>	<p>Protection, recovery, and reintroduction plans implemented for native endangered species</p> <p>\$992,500</p>	<p>Currently endangered species protected and populations strengthened, locally extinct species reintroduced</p> <p>\$950,000</p> <p>GEF: \$100,000 Co-Financing: \$950,000</p>
Output 4	<p>Significant areas of Ibera under private ownership,</p>	<p>Cooperative programs with landowners for more</p>	<p>Most private land under conservation management</p>

	with trend towards more destructive resource use patterns  Activities:  Land acquisition and squatter relocation program \$10,000,000 (Conservation Land Trust)	sustainable management; acquisition of private lands and application of conservation management  \$16,000,000	plans, with potential transfer to public ownership over long-term  \$6,000,000  GEF: \$0 Co-Financing: \$6,000,000
Output 5	Little awareness and support for conservation of Ibera outside immediate region, and little local participation in management  Activities:  Environmental education and awareness \$25,000 (Tinker Foundation)	Effective education and alliance building at provincial and national level; mechanisms developed for local participation in conservation and management  \$450,000	Enhanced support for Ibera outside immediate region, and increased local stakeholder support and involvement  \$425,000  GEF: \$225,000 Co-Financing: \$150,000
Output 6	Weak local conservation advocates and no effective voice for conservation of Ibera  \$0	Capacity building and professionalization of conservation NGOs and local communities  \$450,000	Strengthened conservation organizations in place, and local communities participating in management and development opportunities  \$450,000  GEF: \$150,000 Co-Financing: \$300,000
Output 7	Limited local economic alternatives leading to increased pressure on Ibera resources, and switch to more destructive land management activities  \$0	Improved and diversified local economy from ecotourism and other sustainable activities; switch to plantation forestry and rice farming precluded by land acquisitions for conservation  \$333,125	Private lands under conservation management; local inhabitants engaged in sustainable economic activities  \$333,125  GEF: \$100,000 Co-Financing: \$233,125
Total Cost	BASELINE: 12,523,500	ALTERNATIVE: 22,917,625	GEF: 1,000,000 Co-Financing: 9,394,125 TOTAL: 10,394,125

## 8. BUDGET: ACTIVITIES (US\$)

	GEF	Co-Financing*	Total
PDF-A	25,000	16,600	41,600
Personnel	275,000	600,000	875,000
Subcontracts	175,000	345,000	520,000

Training	125,000	250,000	375,000
Equipment & maintenance	100,000	620,000	720,000
Travel	35,000	150,000	185,000
Monitoring and evaluation	35,000		35,000
Protected area infrastructure	175,000	400,000	575,000
Land acquisition		6,000,000	6,000,000
Miscellaneous	55,000	1,012,525	1,067,525
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>9,394,125</b>	<b>10,394,125</b>

**\*Co-Financing Summary (US\$)**

Entidad Binacional Yacyreta <sup>1</sup>	1,508,000
Provincial Government <sup>2</sup>	250,000
Local Landowners <sup>3</sup>	100,000
Conservation Land Trust <sup>4</sup>	6,950,000
Fundacion Ecos <sup>5</sup>	33,000
Foundation for Deep Ecology <sup>6</sup>	300,000
Proyecto Ibera <sup>7</sup>	20,000
Fundacion Vida Silvestre <sup>8</sup>	25,000
<u>Ecotourism<sup>9</sup></u>	<u>208,125</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,394,125</b>

**\*Co-Financing Details**

<sup>1</sup>Entidad Binacional Yacyreta (EBY)

- a. Management/conservation of the Preserve: \$648,000  
 EBY currently provides \$18,000 for management and protection of the five existing Wildlife Conservation Units. EBY is expected to continue this level of funding throughout the term of the project, to be used towards continued management, expansion of existing conservation areas, and the development of additional conservation areas.
- b. Hydrological Studies: \$800,000  
 EBY has officially committed to provide funding to determine whether or not water is seeping from the existing reservoir behind the Yacyreta dam into the Esteros del Ibera.
- c. Ongoing Monitoring of Ecological Conditions: \$60,000  
 EBY will provide funding to operate and maintain 11 water, soil, and meteorological monitoring stations that were established by the EU-funded Project Ibera.

<sup>2</sup>Provincial Government

- a. Maintenance of the Ibera Reserve: \$100,000  
 The Government of Corrientes has indicated a funding commitment to Ibera for general maintenance and protection.
- b. Land Acquisition Tax Exemptions: \$150,000  
 Provincial law allows for an exemption from the 1% tax normally applied on land acquisitions if the acquisitions are made under covenants which place the land in conservation status (money saved by avoiding taxes must then be applied towards conservation on the newly acquired lands).

<sup>3</sup>Local Landowners

- a. Existing private and corporate local landowners will provide funds for conservation and for dredging activities intended to improve drainage and prevent an increase in the water level of the Esteros.

<sup>4</sup>Conservation Land Trust

a. Institutional Strengthening and Ecosystem Recovery Project: \$950,000  
CLT will invest significant resources in infrastructure (\$200,000 for two airplanes, \$150,000 for facilities upgrades) and for personnel and program development (\$600,000) in support of its general land conservation programs and initial development of a species recovery and reintroduction strategy (additional funding for endangered species management activities is expected during and after the term of the Project).

b. Land Acquisition Program: \$6,000,000  
CLT is purchasing private landholdings, all dry land areas located within the current boundaries of the Esteros del Ibera Provincial Reserve, and putting it under conservation management with no productive use activities. CLT intends to purchase 60,000 hectares over next three years for an estimated \$6 million, and a total of 200,000 hectares for an estimated total of \$20 million over the next 10 years (in addition to the 110,000 hectares already purchased). Some of this money will also be directed towards squatter relocation activities in these areas.

<sup>5</sup>Fundacion Ecos

a. Funds for general overhead, coordination, and institutional development. \$23,000  
b. Awareness raising and education among municipal and provincial officials \$10,000

<sup>6</sup>Foundation for Deep Ecology

a. The Foundation for Deep Ecology will support the strengthening of Fundacion Ibera, including the hiring of a full-time Executive Director and other staff. \$300,000

<sup>7</sup>Proyecto Ibera

a. A project of the Universidad de Nordeste and international partners, funded by CONICET (Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Scientificas y Technicas), and focused on scientific and technical research of the ecology of Ibera. \$20,000

<sup>8</sup>Fundacion Vida Silvestre

a. Support for environmental education and an interpretation center for visitors to Ibera. \$25,000

<sup>9</sup>Ecotourism

a. Park Entrance Fees: \$157,500  
Currently, the Esteros del Ibera receives approximately 4,000 ecotourists/year. The Project will help the Province establish an entrance fee of \$7 for visitors, and expects to receive 5,000 visitors during Year 1 (\$35,000), 7,500 visitors during Year 2 (\$52,500), and 10,000 visitors during Year 3 (\$70,000).  
b. Operating Fees for Ecotourism Tour Operators: \$50,625  
Ecotourism operators will be assessed a \$3 fee for every tourist that they bring into the area. Assuming that 75% of ecotourists will visit Ibera with a tour operator, the total visitors during the three years of the project will be 16,875.

## 9. Implementation Plan

### Project Activities

### Months

	1-6	7-12	13-18	19-24	25-30	31-36
1. Biodiversity & threat assessments						
2. Workshops for local stakeholders to raise awareness and ensure participation						
3. Creation of local advisory committee and project management committee						
4. Creation of regional management plan						
5. Database development, updating, and dissemination of contents						
6. Designation of Ibera as RAMSAR site						
7. Consultation on capacity building needs of local stakeholders						
8. Analysis of current ecotourism industry and market potential						
9. Alliance-building workshops with provincial/national leaders						
10. Sustainable productive sector training workshops for local stakeholders						
11. Infrastructure development for conservation management and protection						
12. Operation and maintenance of environmental monitoring stations						
13. Review of existing legal framework and drafting of legal changes						
14. Reintroduction program for native species						
15. Land acquisition, implementation of conservation management and squatter relocation programs						
16. Public outreach campaign in Corrientes province						
17. Conservation training workshops for project personnel and local stakeholders						
18. Strengthening and professionalization of local conservation NGOs						
19. Ecotourism training (general operations, guiding)						
20. Ecotourism infrastructure development (visitor centers, lodges, camping sites, etc.)						
21. Design and implementation of ecotourism marketing campaign						
22. Workshops with government officials and local stakeholders						
23. Development of long-term financing strategy						



## **10. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN**

The principal stakeholders in the Esteros del Ibera are the residents of the bordering communities of Mercedes, Concepcion, Pellegrini, Galarza, San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Ituzaingo, Loreto, Gral. Paz, Naranjito, Capribara and Tacuaritas. The "estancias" and their "gauchos", which include establishments involved in rice farming, ecotourism, cattle and tree plantations, are also principal stakeholders.

To this must be added a framework of key institutions which are involved with the investigation, management and conservation of the wetlands, such as the Secretaria de Desarrollo Sustentable y Politica Ambiental, the Direccion de Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente de Corrientes, Universidad del Salvador and associates, Universidad del Nordeste, national and international NGOs such as Wildlife Conservation Society, Conservation Land Trust, WWF US, Fundacion Ibera, Fundacion Vida Silvestre Argentina y Fundacion Ecos.

Most of these stakeholders were active participants in the two workshops carried out as part of the PDF-A activities, which were held last year to carry forward the designed planning and implementation of the project. Fundacion Ecos also initiated an ongoing educational awareness and governance program for government officials at the provincial and municipal level in the Ibera region.

Once the project is approved by UNDP/GEF, Fundacion Ecos and Fundacion Ibera work on the different aspects of the management plan and the development of ecotourism potential, FVSA will assist in the overall consultation and planning with emphasis on wildlife management, Conservation Land Trust will continue land acquisition and launch a species recovery and reintroduction program, and the Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF will provide expert advice on designing, planning and monitoring a regional management plan. Throughout this process, Fundacion Ecos will continue to program workshops, seminars and consultations in order to generate processes of consciousness raising, capacity building and awareness with involved stakeholders.

## **11. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN**

Fundacion Ecos will be directly responsible to GEF, UNDP and the Argentine National Foreign Office for financial and overall management of the project. Fundacion Ecos will also coordinate and direct the activities of the Conservation & Management Committee comprised of 1 person from local municipalities, 1 person from Fundacion Ibera, 1 person representing the Provincial Direccion de Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente, 1 person representing the private landowners, 1 person from Fundacion Vida Silvestre, and 2 people from Fundacion Ecos. The Conservation & Management Committee will meet on a monthly basis to take management decisions and provide for monitoring and evaluation of the project activities. The decision making process of the committee will be substantiated on a technical level by a Scientific Committee, comprised of conservation management experts, endangered species wildlife managers, biologists and botanical specialists, which will meet as required. Furthermore, two workshops will be convened each year to bring in all participants for evaluation of the ongoing work. External evaluation missions by UNDP experts will take place at the mid-term and end of the Project to provide external evaluation and assistance.

## **ANNEXES**

### **ANNEX 1: Maps**

**Map 1: Project Area with Existing Conservation Areas Outlined**

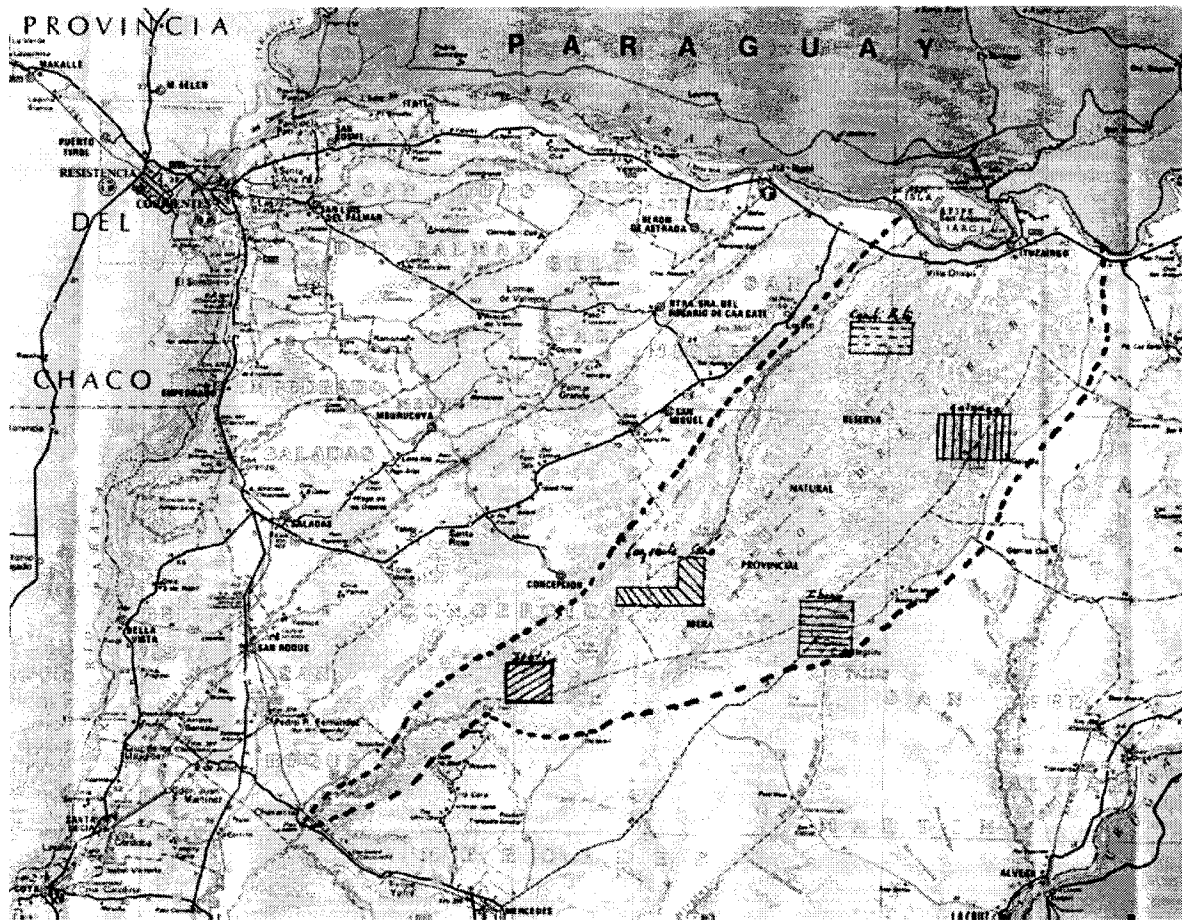
**Map 2: Project Area with Existing Ecotourism Operations and Productive Use Areas Indicated  
(See attached file “Esteros Maps 2”)**

### **ANNEX 2: Focal Point Endorsement Letter**

### **ANNEX 3: Significant Fauna Species of the Esteros del Ibera**

### **ANNEX 4: Bird Species of Esteros del Ibera**

Annex 1 - Map 1: Project Area with Existing Conservation Areas Outlined





### Annex 3: Significant Fauna Species of the Esteros del Ibera

Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status
<u>Current Vertebrates</u>		
Marsh Deer	<i>Blastocerus dichotomous</i>	CITES Appendix I, <i>vulnerable</i> IUCN '96
Pampas Deer	<i>Ozotoceros bezoarticus</i>	IUCN '96 lower risk, CITES Appendix I
Neotropical River Otter	<i>Lutra longicaudatus</i>	CITES Appendix I
Maned Wolf	<i>Chrisocyon brachyurus</i>	IUCN '96 lower risk, CITES Appendix II
Caiman	<i>Caiman crocodylus</i>	CITES Appendix I
Caiman	<i>Caiman latirostris</i>	CITES Appendix II
Howler Monkeys	<i>Alouatta caray,</i>	Rare
Red Brocket Deer	<i>Mazama americana</i>	
Red opossums	<i>Lutreolina crassicaudata</i>	
Vizcacha	<i>Cavia maximus paerea</i>	
Capybara	<i>Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris</i>	
Coipo	<i>Myocastor coypus, Lagostomus</i>	
Crab Eating Raccoons	<i>Procyon cancrivorous</i>	
Fox	<i>Dusicoon sp.</i>	
<u>Locally Extinct Vertebrates (with potential for reintroduction)</u>		
Jaguar		
Ocelot		
Giant anteater		IUCN '96 vulnerable
Giant Otter	<i>Pteronura brasiliensis</i>	IUCN '96 vulnerable
<u>Birds</u>		
White Headed Marsh Tyrant	<i>Fluvicola leucocephala</i>	
Strange Tailed Marsh Tyrant	<i>Alecturus risorius</i>	
Saffron-cowled Blackbird	<i>Xanthospas flavus</i>	Endangered IUCN '96
Osprey	<i>Paridion halia etus</i>	
Bobolink	<i>Poli choryd onyzuroni</i>	
<u>Fish</u>		
?	<i>Astrorhynchus jenynsis</i>	
?	<i>Apistograma corumbae</i>	
Piraña	<i>Pirañas semasolus sp.</i>	
Sábalo	<i>Prochilodus platensis</i>	
Dorado	<i>Salminus maxillosus</i>	

**Annex 4: Bird Species found in the Esteros del Ibera Provincial Preserve**  
(Asociación Ornitológica del Plata)

Narorsk y NUM	FAMILY	LATIN NAME	Spanish Name	English	Name
009-A	Rheidae	Rhea americana	Ñandú	Greater	Rhea
016-A	Tinamidae	Rhynchotus rufescens	Colorada	Red-winged	Tinamou
020-A		Nothura maculosa	Inambú Común	Spotted	
026-A	Podicipedidae	Podiceps dominicus	Macá Gris	Least	Grebe
027-A		Podiceps rolland	Macá Común	White-tufted	
030-A		Podilymbus podiceps	Macá Pico Grueso	Pied-billed	
031-A		Podiceps major	Macá Grande	Great	
069-A	Anhingidae	Anhinga anhinga	Aninga		Anhinga
071-A	Phalacrocoracidae	Phalacrocorax olivaceus	Biguá	Neotropic	Cormorant
077-A	Ardeidae	Ardea cocoi	Garza Mora	White-necked	Heron
078-A		Tigrisoma lineatum	Hocó Colorado	Rufescent	Tiger-Heron
080-A		Syrigma sibilatrix	Chiflón	Whistling	Heron
081-A		Egretta alba	Garza Blanca	Great	Egret
082-A		Egretta thula	Garcita Blanca	Snowy	
083-A		Bubulcus ibis	Garcita Bueyera	Cattle	Bittern
085-A		Botaurus pinnatus	Mirasol Grande	Pinnated	
086-A		Ixobrychus involucris	Mirasol Común	Stripe-backed	
087-A		Ixobrychus exilis	Mirasol Chico	Least	
088-A		Butorides striatus	Garcita Azulada	Striated	Heron
089-A		Nycticorax nycticorax	Garza Bruja	Black-crowned	Night-Heron
091-A		Ciconiidae	Mycteria americana	Tuyuyú	Wood
092-A	Ciconia maguari		Cigüeña Americana	Maguari	
093-A	Jabiru mycteria		Yabirú		Jabiru
094-A	Threskiornithidae	Harpiprion caerulescens	Bandurria Mora	Plumbeous	Ibis
095-A		Theristicus caudatus	Bandurria Boreal	Buff-necked	
097-A		Phimosus infuscatus	Cuervillo Cara Pelada	Bare-faced	
099-A		Plegadis chihi	Cuervillo de Cañada	White-faced	
100-A		Platalea ajaja	Espátula Rosada	Roseate	Spoonbill
104-A	Anhimidae	Chauna torquata	Chajá	Southern	Screamer
105-A	Anatidae	Cairina moschata	Pato Real	Muscovy	Duck
106-A		Sarkidiornis melanotos	Pato Crestudo	Comb	
108-A		Dendrocygna bicolor	Sirirí Colorado	Fulvous	

109-A		<i>Dendrocygna autumnallis</i>	Siriri Viente Negro	Black-bellied	
110-A		<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	Siriri Pampa	White-faced	
111-A		<i>Coscoroba coscoroba</i>	Coscoroba	Coscoroba	Swan
112-A		<i>Cygnus melancoryphus</i>	Cisne Cuello Negro	Black-necked	
121-A		<i>Anas georgica</i>	Pato Maicero	Brown	Pintail
122-A		<i>Anas flavirostris</i>	Pato Barcino	Speckled	Teal
123-A		<i>Anas platalea</i>	Pato Cuchara	Red	Shoveler
125-A		<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>	Pato Colorado	Cinnamon	Teal
126-A		<i>Anas bahamensis</i>	Pato Gargantilla	White-cheeked	Pintail
128-A		<i>Anas versicolor</i>	Pato Capuchino	Silver	Teal
135-A		<i>Netta peposaca</i>	Pato Picazo	Rosy-billed	Pochard
137-A		<i>Amazonetta brasiliensis</i>	Pato Cutirí	Brazilian	Duck
138-A		<i>Callonetta leucophrys</i>	Pato de Collar	Ringed	Teal
141-A		<i>Oxyura vittata</i>	Pato Zambullidor Chico	Lake	Duck
144-A	Cathartidae	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Jote Cabeza Colorada	Turkey	Vulture
145-A		<i>Cathartes burrovianus</i>	Jote Cabeza Amarilla	Lesser Yellow-headed	
146-A		<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	Jote Cabeza Negra	Black	
148-A	Accipitridae	<i>Geranoaetus melanoleucus</i>	Aguila Mora	Black-crested	Buzzard-Eagle
152-A		<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	Milano Blanco	White-tailed	Kite
155-A		<i>Buteogallus urubitinga</i>	Aguila Negra	Great	Black-Hawk
156-A		<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>	Gavilán Mixto	Bay-winged	Hawk
157-A		<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>	Caracolero	Snail	Kite
160-A		<i>Circus buffoni</i>	Gavilán Planeador	Long-winged	Harrier
161-A		<i>Circus cinereus</i>	Gavilán Ceniciento	Cinereous	
164-A		<i>Accipiter bicolor</i>	Esparvero Variado	Bicolored	Hawk
165-A		<i>Accipiter erythronemius</i>	Esparvero Común	Rufous-thighed	
169-A		<i>Buteo magnirostris</i>	Taguató común	Roadside	
171-A		<i>Buteo albicaudatus</i>	Aguilucho Alas Largas	White-tailed	
172-A		<i>Buteo swainsonii</i>	Aguilucho Langostero	Swainson's	
178-A		<i>Geranospiza caerulescens</i>	Gavilán Patas Largas	Crane	
182-A		<i>Harpyhaliaetus coronatus</i>	Aguila Coronada	Crowned	Eagle
186-A		<i>Busarellus nigricollis</i>	Aguilucho Pampa	Black-collared	Hawk
187-A		<i>Heterospizias meridionalis</i>	Aguilucho Colorado	Savann	
192-A	Falconidae	<i>Polyborus plancus</i>	Carancho	Crested	Caracara
193-A		<i>Milvago chimango</i>	Chimango	Chimango	

194-A		Milvago chimachima	Chimachima	Yellow-headed		
199-A		Falco peregrinus	Halcón Peregrino	Peregrine	Falcon	
200-A		Falco femoralis	Halcón Plomizo	Aplomado		
203-A		Falco sparverius	Halconcito Colorado	American	Kestrel	
212-A	Aramidae	Aramus guarauna	Carau		Limpkin	
213-A	Rallidae	Aramides ypecaha	Ipacaá	Giant	Wood-Rail	
214-A		Aramides cajanea	Chiricote	Gray-necked		
216-A		Rallus sanguinolentus	Gallineta Común	Plumbeous	Rail	
219-A		Rallus maculatus	Gallineta Overa	Spotted		
222-A		Laterallus melanophaius	Burrito Común	Rufous-sided	Crake	
224-A		Porzana albicollis	Burrito Grande	Ash-throated		
226-A		Porzana flaviventer	Burrito Amarillo	Yellow-breasted		
232-A		Fulica leucoptera	Gallareta Chica	White-winged	Coot	
234-A		Gallinula chloropus	Pollona Negra	Common	Gallinule	
235-A		Porphyryla martinica	Pollona Azul	Purple		
236-A		Porphyryla flavirostris	Pollona Celeste	Azure		
237-A		Porphyriops melanops	Pollona Pintada	Spot-flanked		
241-A		Jacanidae	Jacana jacana	Jacana	Wattled	Jacana
242-A		Rostratulidae	Nycticryphes semicollaris	Aguatero	South American	Painted Snipe
247-A	Recurvirostridae	Himantopus melanurus	Tero-real	South American	Stilt	
248-A	Charadriidae	Vanellus chilensis	Tero Común	Southern	Lapwing	
251-A		Pluvialis dominica	Chorlo Pampa	American Golden	Plover	
255-A		Charadrius collaris	Chorlito de Collar	Collared		
261-A	Scolopacidae	Tringa melanoleuca	Pitotoi Grande	Greater	Yellowlegs	
262-A		Tringa flavipes	Pitotoi Chico	Lesser		
263-A		Tringa solitaria	Pitotoi Solitario	Solitary	Sandpiper	
276-A		Bartramia longicauda	Batitú	Upland		
279-A		Gallinago gallinago	Becasina Común	Common		Snipe
300-A	Laridae	Larus maculipennis	Gaviota Capucho Café	Brown-hooded	Gull	
303-A	Sternidae	Sterna trudeaui	Gaviotín Lagunero	Snowy-crowned	Tern	
308-A		Phaetusa simplex	Atí	Large-billed		
309-A		Sterna superciliaris	Gaviotín Chico Común	Yellow-billed		
314-A	Rynchopidae	Rynchops nigra	Rayador	Black	Skimmer	
319-A	Columbidae	Columba picazuro	Paloma Picazuró	Picazuro	Pigeon	
320-A		Columba maculosa	Paloma Manchada	Spot-winged		
322-A		Zenaida auriculata	Torcaza	Eared		Dove



323-A		<i>Columbina picui</i>	Torcacita Común	Picui	Ground-Dove
324-A		<i>Columbina talpacoti</i>	Torcacita Colorada	Ruddy	
330-A		<i>Leptotila verreauxi</i>	Yerutí Común	White-tipped	Dove
349-A	Psittacidae	<i>Myiopsitta monacha</i>	Cotorra	Monk	Parakeet
365-A	Cuculidae	<i>Coccyzus melacoryphus</i>	Cuclillo Canela	Dark-billed	Cuckoo
366-A		<i>Coccyzus cinereus</i>	Cuclillo Chico	Ash-colored	
367-A		<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	Anó Chico	Smooth-billed	Ani
369-A		<i>Guira guira</i>	Pirincho	Guira	Cuckoo
372-A		<i>Tapera naevia</i>	Crespín	Striped	
373-A		<i>Piaya cayana</i>	Tingazú	Squirrel	
374-A	Tytonidae	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Lechuza de Campanario	Barn	
375-A	Strigidae	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	Ñacurutú	Great Horned	Owl
380-A		<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Lechucita Vizcachera	Burrowing	
381-A		<i>Otus choliba</i>	Alicuco Común	Tropical	Screech-Owl
384-A		<i>Glaucidium brasilianum</i>	Caburé Chico	Ferruginous	Pygmy-Owl
390-A		<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Lechuzón de Campo	Short-eared	Owl
392-A		Caprimulgidae	<i>Caprimulgus rufus</i>	Atajacaminos Colorado	Rufous
395-A	<i>Caprimulgus longirostris</i>		Atajacaminos Ñañarca	Band-winged	
396-A	<i>Caprimulgus parvulus</i>		Atajacaminos Chico	Little	
397-A	<i>Eleothreptus anomalus</i>		Atajacaminos Ala Negra	Sickle-winged	
399-A	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>		Curiango		Pauraque
401-A	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>		Añapero Boreal	Common	Nighthawk
402-A	<i>Podager nacunda</i>		Ñacundá	Nacunda	
403-A	<i>Hydropsalis brasiliana</i>		Atajacaminos Tijera Común	Scissor-tailed	Nightjar
419-A	Trochilidae	<i>Heliomaster furcifer</i>	Picaflor de Barbijo	Blue-tufted	Starthroat
424-A		<i>Leucochloris albicollis</i>	Picaflor Garganta Blanca	White-throated	Hummingbird
432-A		<i>Chlorostilbon aureoventris</i>	Picaflor Común	Glittering-bellied	Emerald
433-A		<i>Hylocharis chrysur</i>	Picaflor Bronceado	Gilded	Sapphire
434-A		<i>Hylocharis sapphirina</i>	Picaflor Cola Castaña	Rufous-throated	
435-A		<i>Polytmus guainumbi</i>	Picaflor de Antifaz	White-tailed	Goldenthrout
444-A	Alcedinidae	<i>Ceryle torquata</i>	Martín Pescador Grande	Ringed	Kingfisher
445-A		<i>Chloroceryle amazona</i>	Martín Pescador Mediano	Amazon	
446-A		<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>	Martín Pescador Chico	Green	
458-B		<i>Colaptes campestris</i>			
461-A	Picidae	<i>Colaptes melanolaemus</i>	Carpintero Garganta Blanca	Golden-breasted	Woodpecker

469-A		Melanerpes cactorum	Carpintero del Cardón	White-fronted	
470-A		Picoides mixtus	Carpintero Bataraz Chico	Checkered	
475-A		Veniliornis passerinus	Carpintero Oliva Chico	Little	
479-A		Picumnus cirratus	Carpinterito Común	White-barred	Piculet
480-A		Melanerpes candidus	Carpintero Blanco	White	Woodpecker
484-A		Campephilus leucopogon	Carpintero Lomo Blanco	Cream-backed	
492-A	Dendrocolaptidae	Drymornis bridgesii	Chinchero Grande	Scimitar-billed	
493-A		Lepidocolaptes angustirostris	Chinchero Chico	Narrow-billed	
497-A		Campylorhamphus trochilirostris	Picapalo Colorado	Red-billed	Scythebill

517-A		Cinclodes fuscus	Remolinera Común	Bar-winged	Cinclodes
520-A		Furnarius rufus	Hornero	Rufous	Hornero
522-A		Pseudoseisura lophotes	Cacholote Castaño	Brown	Cacholote
526-A		Limnornis curvirostris	Pajonalera Pico Curvo	Curve-billed	Reedhaunter
529-A		Certhiaxis cinnamomea	Curutié Colorado	Yellow-throated	Spinetail
530-A		Phleocryptes melanops	Junquero	Wren-like	Rushbird
531-A		Spartonoica maluroides	Espartillero Enano	Red-capped	Wren-Spinetail
534-A		Cranioleuca pyrrhophia	Curutié Blanco	Stripe-crowned	Spinetail
535-A		Cranioleuca obsolata	Curutié Oliváceo	Olive	
536-A	Furnariidae	Anumbius annumbi	Leñatero		Firewood-gatherer
537-A		Coryphistera alaudina	Crestudo	Lark-like	Brushrunner
538-A		Asthenes baeri	Canastero Chaqueño	Short-billed	Canastero
539-A		Asthenes pyrrholeuca	Canastero Coludo	Lesser	
548-A		Schoeniophylax phryganophila	Chotoy	Chotoy	Spinetail
550-A		Synallaxis frontalis	Pijú Frente Gris	Sooty-fronted	
551-A		Synallaxis albescens	Pijú Cola Parda	Pale-breasted	
554-A		Synallaxis spixi	Pijú Plomizo	Chicli	
556-A		Leptasthenura platensis	Coludito Copetón	Tufted	Tit-Spinetail
560-A		Phacellodomus ruber	Espinero Grande	Greater	Thornbird
582-A	Formicariidae	Thamnophilus caerulescens	Choca Común	Variable	Antshrike
583-A		Tabara major	Chororó	Great	
613-A	Cotingidae	Pachyramphus validus	Anambé Grande	Crested	Becard
614-A		Pachyramphus polychopterus	Anambé Común	White-winged	
616-A		Pachyramphus viridis	Anambé Verdoso	Green-backed	
618-A		Xenopsaris albinucha	Tijerilla	White-naped	Xenopsaris

633-A		<i>Xolmis dominicana</i>	Monjita Dominica	Black and White	
634-A		<i>Xolmis cinerea</i>	Monjita Gris	Gray	Monjita
636-A		<i>Xolmis irupero</i>	Monjita Blanca	White	
650-A		<i>Hymenops perspicillata</i>	Pico de Plata	Spectacled	
653-A		<i>Gubernetes yetapa</i>	Yetapá Grande	Streamer-tailed	Tyrant
654-A		<i>Alectrurus risorius</i>	Yetapá de Collar	Strange-tailed	
658-A		<i>Knipolegus cyanirostris</i>	Viudita Pico Celeste	Blue-billed	Black-Tyrant
663-A		<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>	Benteveo Rayado	Streaked	Flycatcher
664-A		<i>Fluvicola albiventer</i>	Viudita Blanca	Pied	Water-Tyrant
665-A		<i>Fluvicola leucocephala</i>	Lavandera	White-headed	Marsh-Tyrant
666-A		<i>Serpophaga nigricans</i>	Piojito Gris	Sooty	Tyrannulet
668-A		<i>Machetornis rixosus</i>	Picabuey	Cattle	Tyrant
669-A		<i>Satrapa icterophrys</i>	Suiriri Amarillo	Yellow-browed	
672-A		<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	Benteveo Común	Great	Kiskadee
675-A		<i>Conopias trivirgata</i>	Benteveo Chico	Three-striped	Flycatcher
676-A		<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	Suiriri Real	Tropical	Kingbird
677-A		<i>Tyrannus savana</i>	Tijereta	Fork-tailed	Flycatcher
681-A	Tyrannidae	<i>Empidonomus aurantioatrocrist.</i>	Tuquito Gris	Crowned	Slaty-Flycatcher
684-A		<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>	Burlisto Cola Castaña	Brown-crested	
685-A		<i>Myiarchus swainsoni</i>	Burlisto Pico Canela	Swainson's	
686-A		<i>Myiarchus ferox</i>	Burlisto Pico Negro	Short-crested	Flycatcher
690-A		<i>Empidonax euleri</i>	Mosqueta Parda	Euler's	
694-A		<i>Suiriri suiriri</i>	Suiriri Común	Suiriri	
699-A		<i>Myiophobus fasciatus</i>	Mosqueta Estriada	Bran-colored	
706-A		<i>Todirostrum margaritaceiventer</i>	Mosqueta Ojo Dorado	Pearly-vented	Tody-Tyrant
713-A		<i>Polystictus pectoralis</i>	Tachurí Canela	Bearded	Tachuri
714-A		<i>Culicivora caudacuta</i>	Tachurí Coludo	Sharp-tailed	Tyrant
715-A		<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	Churrinche	Vermilion	Flycatcher
716-A		<i>Pseudocolopteryx flaviventris</i>	Doradito Común	Warbling	Doradito
719-A		<i>Pseudocolopteryx sclateri</i>	Doradito Copetón	Crested	
721-A		<i>Serpophaga subcristata</i>	Piojito Común	White-crested	Tyrannulet
729-A		<i>Elaenia spectabilis</i>	Fiofio Grande	Large	
730-A		<i>Elaenia flavogaster</i>	Fiofio Copetón	Yellow-bellied	Elaenia
733-A		<i>Elaenia parvirostris</i>	Fiofio Pico Corto	Small-billed	
741-A		<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>	Piojito Silbón	Southern Beardless	Tyrannulet

749-A	Phytotomidae	Phytotoma rutila	Cortarramas	White-tipped	Plantcutter
750-A	Hirundinidae	Hirundo rustica	Golondrina Tijerita	Barn	Swallow
751-A		Petrochelidon pyrrhonota	Golondrina Rabadilla Canela	Cliff	
754-A		Progne chalybea	Golondrina Doméstica	Gray-breasted	Martin
755-A		Phaeoprogne tapera	Golondrina Parda	Brown-chested	
756-A		Tachycineta leucorroha	Golondrina Ceja Blanca	White-rumped	Swallow
757-A		Tachycineta leucopyga	Golondrina Patagónica	Chilean	
759-A		Riparia riparia	Golondrina Zapadora	Bank	
760-A		Notiochelidon cyanoleuca	Golondrina Barranquera	Blue-and-White	
763-A		Stelgidopteryx fucata	Golondrina Cabeza Rojiza	Tawny-headed	
766-A		Corvidae	Cyanocorax chrysops	Urraca Común	Plush-crested
769-A	Troglodytidae	Troglodytes aedon	Ratona Común	House	Wren
772-A	Mimidae	Mimus triurus	Calandria Real	White-banded	Mockingbird
773-A		Mimus saturninus	Calandria Grande	Chalk-browed	
775-A		Donacobius atricapillus	Angú	Black-capped	Mockingthrush
779-A	Turdidae	Turdus amaurochalinus	Zorzal Chalchalero	Creamy-bellied	Thrush
780-A		Turdus leucomelas	Zorzal Sabiá	Pale-breasted	
781-A		Turdus rufiventris	Zorzal Colorado	Rufous-bellied	

788-A	Motacillidae	Anthus correndera	Cachirla Común	Correndera	Pipit
789-A		Anthus chii	Cachirla Chica	Yellowish	
791-A		Anthus hellmayri	Cachirla Pálida	Hellmayr's	
792-A		Anthus nattereri	Cachirla Dorada	Ochre-breasted	
795-A	Sylviidae	Polioptila dumicola	Tacuarita Azul	Masked	Gnatcatcher
798-A	Vireonidae	Vireo olivaceus	Chiví Común	Red-eyed	Vireo
799-A		Cyclarhis gujanensis	Juan Chiviro	Rufous-browed	Peppershrike
800-A	Ploceidae	Passer domesticus	Gorrión	House	Sparrow
802-A	Parulidae	Basileuterus leucoblepharus	Arañero Silbón	White-browed	Warbler
806-A		Basileuterus culicivorus	Arañero Coronado Chico	Golden-crowned	
808-A		Parula pitiayumi	Pitiayumi	Tropical	Parula
809-A		Geothlypis aequinoctialis	Arañero Cara Negra	Masked	Yellowthroat
817-A	Thraupidae	Euphonia chlorotica	Tangará Común	Purple-throated	Euphonia
829-A		Tachyphonus rufus	Frutero Negro	White-lined	Tanager
831-A		Thraupis sayaca	Celestino Común	Sayaca	
836-A		Piranga flava	Fueguero común	Hepatic	

837-A		<i>Thraupis bonariensis</i>	Naranjero	Blue-and-Yellow	
842-A		<i>Saltator aurantirostris</i>	Pepitero de Collar	Golden-billed	
844-A		<i>Saltator similis</i>	Pepitero Verdoso	Green-winged	Saltator
846-A		<i>Saltator coerulescens</i>	Pepitero Gris	Greyish	
848-A		<i>Paroaria coronata</i>	Cardenal Común	Red-crested	
849-A		<i>Paroaria capitata</i>	Cardenilla	Yellow-billed	Cardinal
855-A		<i>Gubernatrix cristata</i>	Cardenal Amarillo	Yellow	
858-A		<i>Cyanocompsa brissonii</i>	Reinamora Grande	Ultramarine	Grosbeak
859-A		<i>Cyanoloxia glaucocerulea</i>	Reinamora Chica	Indigo	
861-A		<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>	Volatinero	Blue-Black	Grassquit
864-A		<i>Sporophila caerulescens</i>	Corbatita Común	Double-collared	
866-A		<i>Sporophila collaris</i>	Corbatita Domino	Rusty-collared	
870-A		<i>Sporophila palustris</i>	Capuchino Pecho Blanco	Marsh	
871-A		<i>Sporophila zelichi</i>	Capuchino de Collar	White-collared	
872-A		<i>Sporophila cinnamomea</i>	Capuchino Corona Gris	Chestnut	Seed-eater
873-A	Emberizidae	<i>Sporophila hypochroma</i>	Capuchino Castaño	Rufous-rumped	
874-A		<i>Sporophila ruficollis</i>	Capuchino Garganta Café	Dark-throated	
875-A		<i>Sporophila hypoxantha</i>	Capuchino Canela	Ruddy-breasted	
876-A		<i>Sporophila bouvreuil</i>	Corbatita Boina Negra	Capped	
883-A		<i>Sicalis luteola</i>	Misto	Grassland	Yellow-Finch
884-A		<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>	Jilguero Dorado	Saffron	Finch
905-A		<i>Coryphospingus cucullatus</i>	Brasita de Fuego	Red-crested	
907-A		<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>	Chingolo	Rufous-collared	Sparrow
908-A		<i>Ammodramus humeralis</i>	Cachilo Ceja Amarilla	Grassland	
910-A		<i>Donacospiza albifrons</i>	Cachilo Canela	Long-tailed	Reed-Finch
915-A		<i>Poospiza nigrorufa</i>	Sietevestidos	Black-and-Rufous	Warbling-Finch
917-A		<i>Poospiza melanoleuca</i>	Monerita Cabeza Negra	Black-capped	
919-A		<i>Emberizoides ypiranganus</i>	Coludo Chico	Lesser	Grass-Finch
920-A		<i>Emberizoides herbicola</i>	Coludo Grande	Wedge-tailed	
921-A		<i>Embernagra platensis</i>	Verdón	Great	Pampa-Finch
924-A	Fringilidae	<i>Carduelis magellanica</i>	Cabecitanegra Común	Hooded	Siskin
930-A	Icteridae	<i>Cacicus chrysopterus</i>	Boyero Ala Amarilla	Golden-winged	Cacique
932-A		<i>Cacicus solitarius</i>	Boyero Negro	Solitary Black	
933-A		<i>Gnorimopsar chopi</i>	Chopí	Chopí	Blackbird
936-A		<i>Icterus cayanensis</i>	Boyerito	Epaulet	Oriole
937-A		<i>Molothrus rufoaxillaris</i>	Tordo Pico Corto	Screaming	Cowbird

938-A	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>	Tordo Renegrado	Shiny	
939-A	<i>Molothrus badius</i>	Tordo Músico	Bay-winged	
940-A	<i>Agelaius cyanopus</i>	Varillero Negro	Unicolored	Blackbird
941-A	<i>Agelaius ruficapillus</i>	Varillero Congo	Chestnut-capped	
942-A	<i>Agelaius thilius</i>	Varillero Ala Amarilla	Yellow-winged	
945-A	<i>Xanthopsar flavus</i>	Tordo Amarillo	Saffron-cowled	
946-A	<i>Pseudoleistes guirahuro</i>	Pecho Amarillo Grande	Yellow-rumped	Marshbird
947-A	<i>Pseudoleistes virescens</i>	Pecho Amarillo Chico	Brown-and-Yellow	
948-A	<i>Amblyramphus holosericeus</i>	Federal	Scarlet-headed	Blackbird
951-A	<i>Sturnella supercilii</i>	Pecho Colorado	White-browed	

1999 - Año de la Exportación



Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores,  
Comercio Internacional y Culto

LETRA: SUBCI

Nro.: 106.655/99.

BUENOS AIRES

23 NOV 1999

LA CANCELLERIA de Cooperación  
Internacional- presenta sus atentos saludos al Programa de las Naciones Unidas  
para el Desarrollo y, en el marco del Global Environment Facility (GEF), tiene el  
agrado de presentar el siguiente proyecto.

Al respecto, se trata del Proyecto PDF/A "Manejo y  
Conservación de la Biodiversidad en la zona del Iberá, Corrientes,  
Argentina", cuyo monto requerido al GEF es de \$ 300,000.

LA CANCELLERIA de Cooperación  
Internacional- reitera sus atentos saludos al Programa de las Naciones Unidas  
para el Desarrollo (PNUD).

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PNUD ARGENTINA

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23 NOV 1999

GEF P. 55. PRO

REGION	INFORMACION

AL PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES  
UNIDAS PARA EL DESARROLLO  
BUENOS AIRES