



Rose Diegues <rose.diegues@undp.org> on 09/18/2000 10:55:21 AM

Subject: MSP: PDF Belize - Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Golder Stream Corridor Preserve

Dear Mr. King, Mr. Vidaeus and Mr. Djoghlaif,

On behalf of Mr. Asenjo, please find attached the above mentioned PDF A to Belize, together with the signed transmission letter.

We look forward to receiving your review and/or any other comments.

Best Regards,

Rose Diegues  
UNDP/GEF/RBLAC



- Final PDF A.doc

- Not previously discussed w/ team
- how many + expected for Belize
- gov. contribution to prep. no?  
to impl?
- define criteria for stat. approval.

However,  
- important area  
- sustainable development  
- test for UNDP

**Medium size project  
PDF A**

**Part I – Eligibility**

1. **Project name:** Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Golden Stream Corridor Preserve (Southern Belize)
2. **GEF Implementing Agency:** United Nations Development Program
3. **Country:** **Belize**
4. **Country eligibility:** CBD Ratification: 30/12/93.
5. **GEF focal area:** Biodiversity
6. **Operational program:** OP – 3 Forest ecosystems

**7. Project linkage to national priorities, action plans, and programs:**

National Priorities

The Golden Stream Corridor Project (GSCP) fully addresses the goal of the National Strategy on Biodiversity of Belize (September, 1998) “to promote the sustainable use of Belize’s biological and cultural resources by educating society to properly conserve biological diversity in order to maintain and enhance the quality of life for Belizeans”. The project will implement priority actions identified in the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Belize, by ensuring local participation and equitable access to benefits from biodiversity conservation. ✓

The project’s focus on *in-situ* conservation, supports implementation of Article 8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) by strengthening support for PAs and sustainable use in adjacent buffer zones. The project is consistent with Agenda 21, and the guidance from the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the CBD, since it will: promote conservation, management and sustainable use of forest ecosystems which include endangered and vulnerable species; involve local communities and build partnerships at local, national and regional levels; and promote cost effective measures to conserve biodiversity. The objectives of the proposed project are also consistent with the National Environmental Action Plan, supported by the World Bank (WB).

Linkage to ongoing National and Regional programs

The diversity of ecosystems and threats require efforts of several coordinated, complementary initiatives and partnerships, to ensure the long-term protection of biodiversity and the well being of the communities living within.

The proposed project has thus been developed in the context of the Regional Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC), the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System (MBRS) and a set of national projects (see Annex 5). The GSCP project will coordinate conservation efforts with the three GEF Medium Size Projects (Northern Belize Biological Corridors, Community Co-managed Protected Area (PA) system for (central) Belize and Community-managed Sarstoon-Temash National Park, ?

Southern Belize). Discussions were held with the executing agencies of these projects to ensure good coordination.

The main objective of the **Northern Belize Biological Corridors Project** (WB/GEF), implemented by Program for Belize (Pfb<sup>iii</sup>) is maintenance of ecological linkages that currently connect major PAs within Northern and Central Belize to the regional MBC system. The project aims to develop mechanisms for securing the conservation of recognized gaps in the national network of PAs in Northern Belize, and promoting community and private sector collaboration in corridor creation that may be replicable elsewhere. Pfb has offered to share the lessons learned in implementing the the project and to assist with mapping and will participate in the development of the logical framework and management plan of the proposed project.

GSCP project will collaborate with PACT<sup>1</sup> in its implementation of the **Community Co-Managed Protected Area System for Belize** (GEF/UNDP). This focuses on the creation of a management model for areas that include both public and private land in North-Eastern and Central Belize. GSCP/NGO and PACT are already discussing ways to integrate this project with GSCP.

GSCP proposes links to the **Community-managed Sarstoon-Temash Conservation Project** (WB/IFAD) in Southern Belize, adjacent to the GSCP. The Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM) developed this project to conserve and manage the biodiversity of Sarstoon Temash National Park bordering Guatemala, and to develop a transboundary PA in collaboration with FundEco in Guatemala. FFI are already building the foundations for cooperation between the Park and GSCP through participating in several community consultations in Sarstoon-Temash National Park for the development of its management plan.

A project proposal has been submitted to the European Union (EU) for a **Sustainable Economic Evaluation and Design (SEED<sup>iv</sup>)** project, which will enable Flora and Fauna International (FFI) and its local partners to identify and design alternative income-generating activities for communities living in or near GSCP. The selected activities will be implemented as an essential part of the integrated management plan for the GSCP.

What happens  
to the  
SEED?

In addition, GSCP will positively influence the Port Honduras Marine Reserve managed by the **Integrated Coastal Zone Management (CZM<sup>2</sup>) component of the MBRs** (World Bank/GEF). Water quality-monitoring programs in the Port Honduras Reserve highlighted immediate threats from upstream pollution to the reef and emphasized the need for protection of the Golden Stream. The proposed project will add substantial benefits to the Port Honduras Marine Reserve through water quality monitoring, conservation of upstream watersheds, information dissemination and outreach.

#### Conservation Efforts in the GSCP area

The two project proponents, Flora and Fauna International (FFI) and GSCP/NGO have already initiated significant activities for the conservation of the GSCP.

*Land purchase within GSCP for conservation:* FFI has been very active in purchasing land within the GSCP. FFI has already purchased 9,554 acres for \$1.2 million (see map in Annex 3) from the Caribbean Cattle and Land Corporation (CLCC). FFI and GSCP/NGO are currently working with

small

<sup>1</sup> Belize has established a national Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) which provides funds to support conservation and promote environmentally sound management of Belize's natural and cultural resources to foster sustainable development. The long-term goal of PACT is to support and facilitate activities which ensure the sustainable use of Belize's natural and cultural resources. <http://www.pactbelize.org/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> CZM includes control/mitigation of land-based sources of pollution; land use planning and zoning for multiple compatible uses, and establishment of marine PAs.

other NGOs to purchase more land in the area to designate to conservation. FFI has just agreed to purchase another 10,000 acres of rainforest in the Golden Stream watershed. Once FFI purchases land, it hands it over to GSCP/NGO for management. Furthermore, the Chief Forester of Belize has agreed to put an additional 10,000 acres of rainforest, in the watershed, under conservation if FFI provides a management plan for the land.

*Biodiversity-friendly income-generating activities:* FFI and GSCP/NGO are already working with the local communities to develop programs designed to: promote agro-forestry on degraded lands (eg planting cohune trees), increase public awareness about the value of forests, enforce existing legislation and develop eco-tourism programs. GSCP/NGO has also hired two hunters as rangers with financial assistance from IUCN.

*Capacity building:* In November 1998, with financial support from IUCN, the Netherlands/Tropical Forest Program started a one-year project to build the capacity of GSCP/NGO to manage the GSCP. Consequently the GSCP/NGO have hired a Coordinator, four rangers and two community patrol leaders.

*Environmental education and community outreach:* The GSCP/NGO multi-purpose center, which functions as GSCP/NGO headquarters, ranger training center, environmental education center, and information point for PAs in Southern Belize was officially opened by the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and the alcaldes of Golden Stream municipalities on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2000.

## **8. GEF National Operational Focal Point and date of country endorsement:**

Submitted: 18 May 1999, Endorsed: 23 August 1999, by Ms. Zenaida Moya, Ministry of Economic Development

## **9. Project rationale and objectives:**

Belize is one of the eight countries harboring vital portions of the globally important Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC)<sup>3</sup>. These countries have established a significant number of Protected areas (PAs). *The Golden Stream Corridor Preserve* (GSCP) known as the South-Eastern corridor, provides the missing link between Northern, Central and Southern PAs ensuring the continuity of the MBC. The GSCP initiative is also unique in being the only vital link between the MBC and the MBRS, as mentioned above.

### **A. Overall objective**

The overall objective of the project is to ensure the long-term conservation of the biodiversity of Southern and Central Belize by establishing a biological corridor (GSCP) between the country's existing PAs. The protected corridor will also indirectly assist conservation efforts in Guatemala and Mexico through linkage with the MBC.

The project will protect biodiversity in the Golden Stream watershed and act as a buffer zone for the Maya Mountain PA. It will also promote sustainable socio-economic development of its community-based stewardship partners who will be important contributors to the long-term protection in biodiversity in the GSCP

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<sup>3</sup> MBC is represented in eight Central American countries - Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama. It is a region of high diversity in terms of geological, geographical, climatic and biota variations. It covers around 768,990 square kilometers; an area of 0.51% of total emergent land mass of the world, with approximately 7% of the planet's biodiversity. The portion of the MBC within Belize will henceforth be referred to as the Belize Biological Corridor in this text.

The overall global benefits will be the conservation and management of some of the last remaining broadleaf forest ecosystems of the MBC, and additional conservation efforts to protect the second largest barrier reef in the world.

### **B. Description of the project area**

The GSCP, located in Toledo District of Southern Belize, is the country's last remaining lowland tropical broadleaf forest ecosystem running unbroken from the mountains to the coast and one of the few forested corridors between the Mesoamerican highlands and the Caribbean coast. The Preserve has a surface area of 35,000 acres and connects the Maya Mountain Forest Reserve to the Deep River Forest Reserve, which are in turn linked to the Bladen Nature Reserve and Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary (see map in Annex 2). The lowland wet forests in the GSCP have evolved on limestone and therefore likely to contain a high endemism both at species and at habitat level.

Finally, the Golden Stream is one of the last pristine coastal rivers left in Belize. The Golden Stream is a critical life-supporting waterway, originating in the Maya Mountains and discharging into Port Honduras. Survival, behaviour and habitat spread of both terrestrial and marine species depend on this artery<sup>4</sup>.

### Global biodiversity significance

The Golden Stream Corridor is an area of global biodiversity significance. Its value is further enhanced by its contribution to the globally important biodiversity of the MBC as it provides the missing link between Northern, Central and Southern PAs in Belize ensuring the continuity of the MBC. A zoological report prepared by Wildlife Conservation Society for the National Protected Areas Management Plan<sup>5</sup> in 1995, concluded that the southern Toledo district and the Maya Mountains were unique and should be brought under protection as corridor links.

GSCP contain's Central America's five great cats: Jaguar (*Felis onca*), Jaguarundi (*Herpailurus yaguarundi*), Puma (*Puma concolor*), Ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis albescens*), and Margay (*Felis weidii*). The area is thought to possess the densest populations of Jaguar in the world (A. Rabinowitz *vide* Ken Karas pers.comm). GSCP contains populations of several threatened animal species and subspecies, such as:

<u>English name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>IUCN Threat category</u> <sup>6</sup>
Central American Spider Monkey	<i>Ateles geoffroy yucatanensis</i>	Vulnerable
Jaguar	<i>Panthera onca</i>	Lower Risk/near threatened
Baird's Tapir	<i>Tapirus bairdii</i>	Vulnerable
West Indian Manatee	<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	Vulnerable
Kee-billed Motmot	<i>Electron carinatum</i>	Lower Risk/near threatened
Morelet's crocodile	<i>Crocodylus moreletti</i>	Data Deficient

FFI conservation biologists recorded 43 migratory bird species in the GSCP area, and during one census 29 % of individuals and 23 % of species were reported as Neotropical migrants, many of which are threatened by destruction of old growth forests in Middle America. GSCP is also of

<sup>4</sup> Most animal species need these waterways and the forest habitats associated with them in order to survive. Animal behaviour and distribution patterns are strongly influenced by natural waterways. Unsustainable use of these arteries not only would alter the forest significantly but would also deal a killing blow to some of the larger, more water dependent mammal species such as jaguars, river otters, manatees and Morelet's crocodile.

<sup>5</sup> National Protected Areas Management Plan, Miller, W.B and Miller, M.C. 1995. Pub. Wildlife Conservation Society.

<sup>6</sup> VULNERABLE (VU) A taxon is Vulnerable when it is not Critically Endangered or Endangered but is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as defined by any of the IUCN criteria. For further details please refer <http://www.iucn.org/>

considerable importance for Neartic migrant passerines<sup>7</sup>. The GSCP includes many broad endemics<sup>8</sup>, such as plain chachalaca (*Ortalis vetula*), chestnut-collared woodpecker (*Celeus castaneus*), wedge tailed sabrewing (*Camptolypterus curvipennis*), Montezuma oropendula (*Psarocolius montezuma*), etc.

10/11/11  
Down

### **C. Threats to biodiversity**

The threats to GSCP area are from two main sources: large-scale industrial activities (logging, shrimp, citrus plantations) and over-exploitation of the natural resources by the local communities living in adjacent areas.

#### **1. Large-scale industrial activities**

Land in southern Belize is in great demand by citrus, shrimp and timber extraction industries. The recent trends in timber production indicate that harvests in Toledo District are increasing. Without applying sustainable management practices the natural resources will soon be exhausted. It is highly probable that unless the land within the Golden Stream watershed is purchased and designated for conservation the area will be cleared, within a few years, for alternative uses.

The project, through effectively managing land purchased for conservation should halt these threats. ??

#### **2. Overexploitation of natural resources by the local communities living in the adjacent areas**

There are several villages located in the GSCP buffer zone. Most of the villages are recently established and are growing fast. ESTAP estimated an increase of 46% of the population in the area, since 1991. There are two Mayan communities living very close to the GSCP, in the Indian Creek (500 Kekchi Maya) and Golden Stream (250 Mopan Maya) villages (see map in annex 3). The villages of Tambran (100 inhabitants), Big Falls (approx. 1,000 inhabitants) and Medina Bank (250 inhabitants) also use the resources in the project area.

The population in the project area is among the poorest in the country and is serviced with poor infrastructure. The main economic activities are agriculture (Milpa<sup>9</sup> farming), hunting, fishing and logging. There are a few alternative part-time work opportunities on citrus plantations and logging in nearby areas. There are therefore several threats from the local communities to biodiversity.

1) *Agriculture and settlement.* There is continuous pressure for leasing of forest lands for agricultural and settlement purposes. ESTAP, suggests that approximately 75,000 acres of primary vegetation has been cleared between 1984 and 1996 (47 % of which is estimated to be cleared for Milpa cultivation). During the same period, village establishment or expansion has led to the clearance of 40,000 acres of land, with 5,000 in the Golden Stream area. ✓

2) *Hunting.* The rapid biodiversity assessments carried out in 1999 by FFI in the Golden Stream watershed identified a decrease in the number of cats (jaguars, margays and ocelots) since 1990, mainly due to increased hunting of their prey (peccaries, agouti, gibnot, tinamou, etc.). Iguanas and hekatee have disappeared from the nearby Big Falls river several years ago and now, there is increased pressure on the wild fauna of the Golden Stream area.

3) *Collection of housing materials from the forest.* Most villagers in the project area are collecting,

<sup>7</sup> More work is needed to quantify this further and to enable appropriate management action to be taken.

<sup>8</sup> With the exception of the xeric ecosystems of the Yucatan peninsula, there is little localised endemism within the Caribbean lowlands of Central America and species tend to range widely from Mexico to Panama

<sup>9</sup> Slash and burn agriculture is locally called Milpa farming.

in an unregulated manner, all their housing materials from GSCP and the Maya Mountains. .

4) *Firewood collection.* Most of the villagers use firewood for cooking, very few use bottled gas (only in Big Falls). Firewood consumption is between 3 and 4 bundles/week. *per family? per person?*

5) *River water extraction for drinking water, bathing and washing clothes.* Bleach used in washing and garbage left on the riverbanks are serious threats to aquatic fauna. *d. fr...*

#### **D. Objectives for Mitigating Threats**

The project aims to complement significant activities for the conservation of the GSCP already underway by the two project proponents, FFI and GSCP/NGO.

The project will ensure the proper management of the area once purchased and designated for conservation (see Section on Conservation Efforts) and thus help reduce the chance of intrusion from other activities.

The project will reduce the exploitation of natural resources by the local communities through developing alternative sustainable income generating activities and raising awareness of the issues. GSCP/NGO and FFI have also been holding bi-monthly community meetings and monthly discussions with the village chiefs since January 1999, in each village. All the villages expressed interest in becoming involved in the conservation management planning process.

#### **10. Expected outcomes:**

This project - *to be developed with the PDF-A resources and co-financing* - is expected to result in the *development and implementation of a comprehensive management plan for the GSCP*. This plan and proposed associated activities will promote the following outcomes (although these may be subject to revision or supplementation based on the findings and results of PDF A activities): ✓

- 1) Increased awareness of the general public as to the GSCP's importance for local development and local, regional and global environmental quality through the implementation of targeted action plans for raising the awareness of specific stakeholder groups and the general public about the importance of, and opportunities for, biodiversity conservation in GSCP.
- 2) An ecological *baseline assessment* of the GSCP biodiversity to assist in future monitoring of conservation impact.
- 3) Known status of biodiversity resources and main threats to the biodiversity identified. The results of the assessment will form the basis for zoning, identification of indicator species, identification of the main threats and mitigation actions and development of the monitoring and implementation plan.
- 4) Diversification of sustainable economic activities for local communities such as eco-tourism. ✓
- 5) Development of appropriate economic and other instruments to motivate compliance with land-use regulations and the goals and objectives of the management plan.
- 6) Mitigation of potential economic losses associated with restricted access to natural resources in the PA through restoration of degraded lands and wamils.
- 7) Strengthened capacity of the local NGOs and primary stakeholders to develop and implement the management plan.
- 8) A functioning visitor education centre in GSCP, within GSCP/NGO's recently built multipurpose center.
- 9) Establishment of a funding mechanism for the long-term financial sustainability of GSCP. This may include a private endowment and income generating options to offset operating costs of

reserve management.

- 10) Increased exchange of science-based information and policy dialogue between local and provincial officials, NGOs and the private sector,

#### 11. Planned activities to achieve outcomes:

The strategy to ensure effective implementation of the activities to achieve the project's outcomes includes building the capacities of the implementing NGO and establishing or strengthening partnerships with key NGOs (eg Programme for Belize and the Nature Conservancy) and others who have relevant expertise and support to offer. These organizations/programmes will be called upon for assistance in the development of the specific project activities listed below.

- a. Survey of biological diversity. The proposed activities in the survey include:
  - (i) assess status of the area's biodiversity;
  - (ii) identify indicator species which will form the basis of the monitoring and implementation plan;
  - (iii) identify vulnerable areas and areas in need of restoration, which will lead to zoning of the reserve;
  - (iv) identify conservation threats and mitigation actions.

*A rapid biodiversity assessment will be conducted as part of the PDF A activities, to identify the gaps to be filled by the more in-depth biodiversity survey to be carried out as part of the MSP.*

- b. Stakeholder analysis - identification of primary and secondary stakeholder groups, their interests, influence, potential impact and possible mitigation activities; *stakeholder analysis will be undertaken as part of the PDF A activities.*

- c. Development of a community participation plan. This will facilitate community participation, include roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder in GSCP management; develop procedures for dealing with conflicts and negotiating collective decisions in GSCP management; and develop procedures for enforcing such decisions through the establishment of Consultative Boards, working groups, etc.

- d. Socio-economic and demographic survey of Mayan villages of Golden Stream, Indian Creek, Big Falls, Medina Bank, and Tambran and Genus settlements in the project area. This would include socio-economic conditions, existing and projected land use patterns based on demographics and socio-economic trends of the Mayan villages in the area; *initial assessment will be carried out as part of the PDF A activities.*

- e. Land use assessment. This will be based on physical and socio-cultural data and GIS mapping of the GSCP in using ESTAP and TIDE's staff and equipment;

- f. Participatory design and implementation of rehabilitation activities of degraded lands and wamils, possibly through planting a) cohune palm to decrease the pressure on cohune leaves in GSCP and Maya Mountains; b) cash crops; c) fast growing trees for firewood; d) high value indigenous timber species, etc., for subsistence use and alternative livelihood.

- g. Identification and implementation of biodiversity-friendly income generating activities for the local communities in the project area. This would include:

- (i) an economic valuation of resource use options in close collaboration with communities;
- (ii) establishment of resource-use village committees;

- (iii) organising and facilitating workshops with the village resource-use committees for design and implementation of alternative livelihoods with possible emphasis on ecotourism, Forest Gardens, micro-enterprise funding, training and marketing assistance, captive-breeding of iguanas, gibnot, peccaries for reintroduction in the wild and domestic consumption;
- (iv) market survey of local and international demand for goods potentially produced in the area.

These particular activities will be addressed by the SEED project, described in section 9, and will represent an integral part of the management plan for the area. ✓

- h. Development and implementation of a long term financial sustainability strategy. This will identify options and sources for financing conservation initiatives in the project area, develop and implement financing mechanisms; and prepare a detailed reference manual for establishing financial mechanisms for biodiversity conservation at other replicable sites.
- i. Capacity building program for key stakeholders to be engaged in the implementation of the management plan for GSCP. The proposed activities would include:
  - i) carry out a capacity building needs assessment of stakeholders including participatory review of the mandate of GSCP/NGO and community associations, existing staff skills, facilities, budgetary and financing arrangements;
  - ii) establish effective institutional structures for planning and managing the GSCP including individual results-oriented workplans for all key project staff;
  - iii) undertake key training programs, including short study tours and on the job training.
  - iv) develop and introduce a standardized format for recording, monitoring and updating work and training programs for the project staff;
  - v) prepare a project staff manual
- j. Raising public awareness will be achieved through a series of complementary activities. The proposed activities would entail:
  - (i) identify information needs for each stakeholder group based on the potential impact of them on the GSCP ecology and threats and opportunities of community involvement in biodiversity protection.
  - (ii) preparation and implementation of targeted action plans for raising the awareness of specific stakeholder groups and the general public about the importance of biodiversity conservation. This will include the development of public awareness materials and educational curricula for local and national dissemination and regular press and media releases and newsletters, annual meetings of concerned NGOs and other groups, development of educational packages for primary schools, and PA related publicity campaigns in collaboration with the other NGOs active in the field.
  - (iii) development of the recently built visitor center so that it can act as education centre for visitors to the PA. This will include the provision of materials, equipment, guards and the marking of trails in the GSCP for tourists. ✓

## 12. Stakeholders involved in the project:

The principal stakeholders active in the *GSCP* include:

Golden Stream Corridor Preserve NGO (GSCP/NGO)

Golden Stream, Indian Creek, Big Falls and Medina Bank villages  
Tambran and Genus communities  
Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE)  
Environmental and Social Development and Assistance Project (ESTAP), Toledo District  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment  
Government of Belize (GOB)  
Belize Audubon Society (BAS)  
Program for Belize (PfB)  
Protected Area Conservation Trust (PACT)  
Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM)  
Fauna and Flora International (FFI)  
EarthVoice  
Counterpart International

During the course of the management planning and implementation process, FFI and GSCP/NGO will organize consultative workshops with these stakeholders to ensure that: (a) community input is fully considered and integrated for data collection purposes; (b) communities are aware of project objectives and activities; (c) communities participate in project design and implementation; and (d) project development is integrated with ongoing and planned initiatives in the country and particularly the project area.

## **Part II – Information on PDF-A Activities**

### **13. Activities to be financed by the PDF-A:**

PDF-A resources are being requested to carry out preliminary studies and consultations at both local and provincial levels to assist in the formulation of a Medium size project brief. The following activities are proposed as part of the PDF-A:

- 1) Carry out a socio-economic impact assessment of the project on the local communities including stakeholder analysis, baseline data, impact assessment and proposed mitigation measures.
- 2) Carry out a rapid biodiversity survey for the GSCP and Governmental Block 127. It will concentrate on endemic and indicator species as well as species richness tied to habitat assessment. All data will be mapped using closest GPS fixes possible and will be used to start producing a simple GIS map of the biodiversity of the area. The survey will provide the basis for zoning, identification of indicator species for the development of a monitoring and evaluation plan, and identification and development of sustainable use options for natural resources.
- 3) Conduct stakeholder consultation and project design workshops. Initial consultations will be carried out to inform local communities of the upcoming project and to gain their support for it. Subsequent community consultations will be carried out with Toledo District government and regional and national public bodies and private entities in order to assess current conservation efforts, coordinate future actions, establish working partnerships, conduct an initial capacity building needs assessment and identify potential sustainable income-generating activities.

Additionally workshops for Indian Creek, Golden Stream, Big Falls, Medina Bank, Tambran and Genus communities will be organised to develop the logical framework for the project,

agree on scope and objectives of the management plan and the participatory process for the initial layout of the management plan and develop the Project Brief.

4) Assist finalise the project brief.

Discussions and consultations during the PDF-A will include a description of GEF requirements and eligibility criteria, and will focus on generating necessary political, technical and financial commitments, particularly for non-incremental activities.

**14. Expected outputs and completion dates of the PDF A:**

The following outputs are expected in four months time from the date of receiving the funds.

- a. Socio-economic profiles of project area villages (month 1);
- b. Primary and secondary stakeholders identified, together with their concerns, interests and impact; (months 1-3)
- c. Stakeholder participation mechanisms established (month 3)
- d. Baseline data on biodiversity and gaps in knowledge and threats (month 1 - 3)
- e. Detailed description of the GEF Alternative (month 3)
- f. Preliminary version/outline of the management plan (month 3-4)
- g. Formulation of a MSP brief and document, including: logical framework, incremental cost analysis, stakeholder participation plan, monitoring and evaluation plan.

The PDF-A will be completed over a period of 4 months.

**14. Other contributors/donors and amounts:**

There appears various interest in contributing to the funding of this project, as follows:

- FFI, EarthVoice and Counterpart International have already invested approximately US\$1,800,000 in land acquisition and initial assessments in GSCP. At present, negotiations are under way to acquire another 18,000 hectares for US\$2 million within GSCP for conservation. In addition they are committing \$32,500 for the project.
- IUCN/Tropical Forest Program and UK High Commission have also comitted US\$ 19,800 and US \$15,000 respectively.
- Interest in co-financing components of a GEF-supported GSCP project has been indicated from EU, Rotterdam Zoo, Chester Zoo and Belize Lodge and Excursions. Funding for planning and implementation of income-generating activities for local communities is being sought from the EU. ✓

**16. Total estimated project budget and information on how costs will be met at the PDF A stage:**

It is estimated that the total value of the project will be around US\$ 2.5 million, out of which approximately US\$ 850,000 is requested from GEF. This is *to cover the costs associated with the development and implementation of an integrated conservation management plan in collaboration with local communities*. The precise breakdown of the costs for different activities to be included in the MSP will be finalized as a part of the MSP preparation process.

The total value of the proposed PDF A activities is estimated at around US\$ 93,200 out of which US\$ 25,000 is requested from GEF, with the rest provided by different donors, as per the table below:

**Budget for PDF-A (in US dollars)**

Item	PDF A	FFI*	GSCP/NGO	EarthVoice	Count. Int.	IUCN	UK HC	TOTAL
<b>Personnel</b>								
International								
Program Manager	0	16,000	0	0	0	0	0	16,000
Social expert	4,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,000
Biodiversity expert	3,000	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	5,000
Local								
Flora experts	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000
Fauna experts	1,000	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	3,000
Guides	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000
Rangers	0	0	0	0	0	4,800	0	4,800
<b>Workshops</b>								
Indian Creek	250	0	100	0	0	500	0	850
Golden Stream	250	0	100	0	0	500	0	850
Big Falls and Medina Bank	250	0	100	0	0	500	0	850
Tambran and Genus	250	0	100	0	0	500	0	850
Logical framework	2,000	0	100	0	0	0	0	2,100
Workshops coordinator	2,000	0	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	4,000
Workshops facilitator	2,000	0	1,000	0	0	0	0	3,000
<b>Training/Awareness</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,000</b>
<b>Communication</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,000</b>
<b>Facilities/building</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,000</b>
<b>Travel</b>								
International	1,600	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,600
Domestic and per diems	3,400	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	5,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>2500</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>3000</b>	<b>19800</b>	<b>15000</b>	<b>92,300</b>

**Part III - Information on the Applicant Institution**

**17. Name:** The proposed project is a joint submission of GSCP/NGO and Fauna and Flora International. FFI will have overall responsibility for project implementation. However, GSCP/NGO will have a major role in managing the newly acquired conservation areas. During the project FFI will build the capacity of GSCP/NGO to develop and implement conservation management projects in collaboration with the local communities and other stakeholders. As GSCP/NGO's capacities increase they will increase their activities and responsibilities in the project.

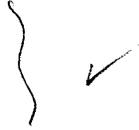
**18. Date of establishment, membership, and leadership:**

Establishment

*Fauna* and *Flora* International  
 Great Eastern House, Tenison Road,  
 Cambridge, CB1 2DT  
 Tel: 44 01223 571 000, Fax: 44 01223 461 481

Email: [info@fauna-flora.org](mailto:info@fauna-flora.org)  
<http://www.ffi.org.uk/>

*Golden Stream Corridor Preserve/NGO*  
Indian Creek Village  
Toledo District, Belize, CA



**19. Mandate/terms of reference:**

FFI's mission: To conserve threatened species and habitats worldwide, choosing solutions that are sustainable, based on sound science and which take into account human needs.

Fauna & Flora International is the world's longest-established international conservation body and one of only a few whose goal is to protect the entire spectrum of endangered species of animals and plants world-wide. FFI was a pioneer in drawing world attention to the plight of rare and endangered species and has been instrumental in establishing much of today's global conservation infrastructure such as The World Conservation Union (IUCN). FFI is active in achieving its mission through field work, applied research, building local partnerships, raising awareness, mobilizing funding and other support and working with business.

GSCP/NGO's mission: GSCP/NGO is a small local NGO. GSCP/NGO's mandate is to manage the lands contained within the GSCP for the purpose of conservation. It has already been working with FFI on many joint activities in the region to promote conservation and sustainable development activities, such as deviling training courses for park rangers in the Toledo region and planting trees with the local communities. Once the land within GSCP is acquired by FFI, GSCP/NGO will have responsibility for managing it

**20. Sources of revenue:** (1997 in Pounds Sterling)

- Grants (986,026, 60%)
- Donations (507,700, 32 %)
- Subscriptions (70,400, 4%)
- Investment and Charitable Trading (45,973, 2%) F F I .
- Legacies (20,322, 1%)
- Publications, royalties, and sponsorship (17,510, 1%)

**21. Recent activities/programs, in particular those relevant to the GEF:**

Recent Projects in Central America Region:

1999 – on-going: Nicaragua – Preparation together with MARENA of a proposal to be submitted to UNDP/GEF for Marine Turtle Action Plan

1999–2000: Nicaragua – NGO capacity building in natural resource management and environmental education.

1999: Panama - Panamanian Biological Corridor: Communication and Promotion Project

Work with GEF/UNDP:

1998: Georgia: Transboundary and zone management GEF/UNDP

1998: Ukraine: Ecological Corridor Sea of Azov – Black Sea – GEF/World Bank.

1997/8: Project Preparation for GEF/World Bank Transboundary Biodiversity Project, West Tien Shan, Central Asia

1994 – present: Technical assistance and capacity building for GEF/World Bank Dana Wildlands Project, Jordan

GSCP/NGO has worked closely with IUCN, FFI and local NGOs in land assessment and acquisition for conservation purposes and is presently involved in developing management plans for PAs in the region.

**Part IV - Information to be completed by implementing Agency**

22. **Project identification number:** 1740

23. **Implementing Agency contact person:** Lita Paparoni, GEF Regional Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, Tel: (212) 905 5468, Fax: (212) 906 6688, email: [lita.paparoni@undp.org](mailto:lita.paparoni@undp.org)

24. **Project linkage to Implementing Agency program(s):** UNDP CCF in Belize focuses on Natural Resource Conservation and Community Development.

**Annex 1**  
**Projects in Belize**

**Annex 2**  
**GSCP area Map**

**Annex 3**  
**Golden Stream Watershed Map**



**GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE**  
**Ministry of Budget Planning, Economic Development,**  
**Investment and Trade**

*Economic Development*  
Fax: (501)08-23673  
Tel: (501)08-22526/08-22527  
Our Ref.: IA/UN/11/12/VI/99 (41)

P.O. Box 42  
Administration Building  
Belmopan  
Belize, Central America

August 23, 1999

*urgent send point?*

Mr. Bruno Moro  
Resident Representative  
United Nations Development Programme  
El Salvador

Dear Mr. Moro:

**RE: GEF MEDIUM-SIZE PROJECT PROPOSAL, "BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF GOLDEN STREAM CORRIDOR PRESERVE"**

On behalf of the Government of Belize, and in my capacity as Global Environment Facility Focal Point, I hereby endorse the **Block A PDF Grant** for the above-mentioned Project Proposal and request funding for this project proposal.

This proposed project addresses some of the activities identified in Belize's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and fits well within the context of the conservation and management of a Southern Biological Corridor reinforcing the Maya Mountain Massif linkage to the Gulf of Honduras.

Since the conservation and management of the Golden Stream Corridor Project has to occur as an integral part of a larger block of protected areas within the regional context, and as part of our national protected areas system plan, MED requests that mechanisms be developed to effectively involve the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, in particular the Forest Department, in the process of developing the integrated management plan and the monitoring of management activities.

*check if available*

Submitted for your kind support.

With best wishes,

Zenaida Moya (Ms.)  
GEF Operational Focal Point  
for Permanent Secretary  
Economic Development

cc: Mr. Moises Cal, Programme Officer, UNDP, Belize

CAI

**Annex 1**  
**Projects in Belize**

Establishment of a Programme to Consolidate the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor  
(UNDP/UNEP/GEF) : 607 10.9 Total: 23.5

Mesoamerican Barrier Reef (MBRS) System (World Bank/GEF) is a key ecological component of the MBC, complementing the regional initiative to conserve key terrestrial and coastal ecosystems linking North and South America. MBRS assists the countries of Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras to develop and implement a viable action plan for the conservation and sustainable use of the second largest barrier reef in the world. The main objectives are to: (i) harmonize policies, legislation, regional coordination; (ii) promote MBRS conservation; (iii) promote MBRS sustainability; and (iv) regional compatible ecosystem/biodiversity monitoring and information. Belize has been designated in June 1999 as the international headquarters of the MBRS and it will be overseen by Coastal Zone Management Authority.

Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Barrier Reef Complex (UNDP/GEF), supports the conservation of the Belizean segment of the MBRS. This project focuses on: (i) consolidating capacity to mainstream biodiversity conservation into coastal zone policy framework; (ii) establishing a Belize Barrier Reef PAs network; (iii) integrating marine biodiversity conservation into caye development plans; (iv) establishing sustainable financing mechanisms for marine biodiversity conservation; (v) removing the legal and institutional barriers to marine biodiversity prospecting; and (vi) supporting public outreach. 607: 5.3 Total: 7.3

Northern Belize Biological Corridors Project (WB/GEF), implemented by Program for Belize (PfB) has as main objective to maintain the ecological linkages that currently connect major PAs within Northern and Central Belize to the regional Mesoamerican Biological corridor system. It therefore helps maintain the value, in terms of biodiversity conservation of the PA network in Northern Belize and on a regional scale across the Maya lowlands. The main outcomes would be the development of mechanisms for securing the conservation of recognized gaps in the national network of PAs in Northern Belize and promoting community and private sector collaboration in corridor creation that may be replicable elsewhere. PfB has been instrumental in offering to share the lessons learned in implementing the Northern Belize Biological Corridors Project and in managing the Rio Bravo Conservation Area. PfB has offered to assist with mapping and will participate in the development of the logical framework and management planning of the proposed project. The project will contribute to enhancing public awareness of an integrated approach to the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor in Belize. 607: 0.76 Total: 3.9

	607: 15.7	Total: 50.0	
Programs	10.9	23.5	
	25.9		
Barriers	5.3	7.3	
	.76	3.9	
	.75	1.1	
	.75		
	7.56		

07.188  
007  
197

Community Co-Managed Protected Area System for Belize (GEF/UNDP): GSCP Project will also collaborate with and benefit from the first stages of implementation of the Community Co-Managed Protected Area System for Belize (GEF/UNDP), especially focused on the creation of the proposed management model for areas that include public and private lands. The project is focused on four sites for developing a community co-managed system: Manatee Forest Reserve, Aguacaliente Wetland Complex, Five Blues National Park and the Fresh Water Creek Forest Reserve. A series of meetings to explore collaboration and to refine the GSCP initiative were held with the coordinator of the above project and the local field staff. FFI and GSCP/NGO have participated in the community workshops undertaken within the "Co-Management" Project and discussed the opportunities for collaboration. GSCP/NGO was invited to the development of the logical framework for the Community Co-managed PAs System for Belize in order to integrate the initiatives in Golden Stream watershed. Staffs of the PAs targeted by the above project have participated in the recently developed Toledo Region Ranger Training Course. 0.75 174. 1.1

Community-managed Sarstoon-Temash Conservation (WB/IFAD) is an initiative developed by the Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM) that aims to conserve and manage the biodiversity of Sarstoon Temash National Park, which borders Guatemala and to develop a transboundary protected area in collaboration with FundEco in Guatemala. The PDF A for the above project was submitted to the World Bank, which suggested that prior to approval, the local NGO should be legally established. In November 1999, the NGO was officially registered, with a Board of Directors and proposal for staff to undertake the management of the National Park. FFI participated in several community consultations in Sarstoon-Temash National Park for the development of the management plan and establish mechanisms for cooperation with the adjacent Golden Stream Corridor Preserve. The community patrol leaders of the five communities inhabiting the park will participate in the Toledo Region Ranger Training Course developed by FFI, GSCP and TIDE. 0,750

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<sup>i</sup> TIDE is a local NGO based in the Toledo District, which is working with local communities to protect and manage Paynes Creek National Park, Port Honduras Marine Reserve and Sapodilla Cayes. TIDE is focused on integrated conservation and development projects, with the involvement of the local communities living within the buffer zones of PAs in the management of natural resources and development of environmentally-friendly economic activities, such as: ecotourism, kayaking, fly-fishing, and other activities which generate income for members of the communities and release pressure on natural resources.

<sup>ii</sup> ESTAP was established by the Ministry of Economic Development through funding loaned by the Inter-American Development Bank and represents the first attempt of Government of Belize to adopt a holistic approach to regional development. As the initial component of the regional development planning process, ESTAP prepared the Regional level plan for Southern Belize and published the first draft in October 1999. The primary focus of the plan is to integrate identified social and economic infrastructure needs of the region, with specifically tailored land-tenure and environmental management recommendations in order to limit inappropriate development and maximize the benefits from the Southern Highway improvement.

<sup>iii</sup> Established in 1988, Programme for Belize (PfB) is a private, non-profit, Belizean, conservation organization with management responsibility for the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area (RBCMA, see map in Annex 1) in the extreme north-west of Belize. The forest on the Rio Bravo (240,000 acres) is part of the largest remaining forest area in Central America, stretching from Belize across the Peten (Guatemala) to the Lacandon in Chiapas (Mexico), and northward into the centre of the Yucatan Peninsula. Much of this forest is also formally protected, as the Rio Bravo joins to the Maya Biosphere Reserve, which links in turn with the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve. Between them, these areas cover over 1.8 million ha - this is the largest protected area complex in Central America and one of the most important in the neotropics. PfB will integrate the various program actions and projects with existing national and regional conservation

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strategies and programs, such as the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Project, the Coastal Zone Management Project, the National Parks System Plan and the National Environmental Action Plan. The long term goal of the project is to pay for the conservation of the entire area by wise use of its natural resources. On the RBCMA, Pfb conducts research, conservation education, professional training and promotes environmental awareness among visitors. Pfb also has an educational and community outreach component which promotes environmental education throughout the Belizean schools and encourages ecologically sound economic activity in the villages surrounding the RBCMA. <http://www.pfbelize.org>

<sup>iv</sup> SEED project has the following objectives: (a) to examine the feasibility of different environmentally friendly development options in the Golden Stream watershed; and (b) to design and implement the selected environmentally friendly economic activities for the GSCP Integrated Management Plan. The SEED project will focus primarily but not solely on the following economic activities: Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP), forest garden products, ecotourism and handicrafts. The SEED project is a multidisciplinary assessment of the economic potential of the GSCP and the surrounding buffer zone. The long-term goal is to develop and implement broad based economic and ecologically sustainable activities involving the GSCP and the surrounding communities, that will ensure that conservation objectives of the territory are met and that sustainable socioeconomic alternatives are established for local income generation.



