



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)
PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project
THE GEF TRUST FUND

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Submission Date: September 14, 2009
Re-submission Date: November 5, 2009

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

GEFSEC PROJECT ID: 4113
GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID: CO-X1011
COUNTRY(IES): Colombia
PROJECT TITLE: Mainstreaming biodiversity in palm cropping in Colombia with an ecosystem approach
GEF AGENCY (IES): Inter-American Development Bank
OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: National Federation of African Palm Growers (FEDEPALMA) as executing agency. Humboldt Institute on Biological Resources Research (IAvH) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) as supporting partners
GEF FOCAL AREAS: Biodiversity,
GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S): BD-SP5

INDICATIVE CALENDAR	
Milestones	Expected Dates
Work Program (for FSP)	Mar 2010
CEO Endorsement/Approval	Oct 2010
GEF Agency Approval	Nov 2010
Implementation Start	Feb 2011
Mid-term Review	Feb 2013
Implementation Completion	Dec 2015

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To induce the adoption of biodiversity-friendly production systems in palm-growing farms in Colombia contributing to protect and restore high value conservation areas in palm-growing regions, enhance their natural assets in the framework of regional conservation schemes, and improve local livelihoods with participation from social actors present in palm agro-ecosystems.

Project Components	Indicate whether Investment, TA, or STA**	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative GEF Financing*		Indicative Co-financing*		Total (\$ M)
				(\$ M)	%	(\$ M)	%	
1. Integrated agro-ecosystem management	Investment, TA and STA	1.1. Agroecological systems within oil palm production landscapes are connected and the functionality of ecosystems and agro-ecosystems with local, regional, national and global environmental values is restored and enhanced. 1.2. An in situ, sound conservation strategy for oil palm regions through legal and technical instruments exists and is being broadly implemented.	- 1 biological and ecosystem assessment per region, resulting in proposals for their linkage with main ecological structures - No. of hectares of biodiversity-friendly systems adopted - 80 farms adopting good agro-ecological practices - 40 farms per region applying complementary landscape management tools - 2 biological corridors established per region - No. of producers trained in land management tools - A financially sustainable extension service designed and implemented to support farmer adoption of agreed best practices and biodiversity-friendly production models	1.86	26	5.4	74	7.27
2. Environmental Services	Investment, TA and STA	2.1 High value conservation areas in each oil palm	- 4 regions with high value conservation areas identified for the	1.47	25.7	4.23	74.3	5.70

		<p>region are being protected and restored with the participation of social actors present in palm agro-ecosystems</p> <p>2.2. The agro-biodiversity related to palm productive systems is being recovered and maintained</p> <p>2.3 An increased awareness and adoption of best practices for the conversion of productive systems under a landscape approach has been attained in a regional context.</p>	<p>provision of environmental goods & services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 technical proposals linking high value conservation areas per region to regional protected areas systems - 4 watersheds in palm-growing regions implementing payments for environmental services (PES) - Methodological publication produced, disseminated and applied for the identification of high value conservation areas in palm-growing regions 					
3. Green Markets development	Investment, TA and STA	<p>3.1. Certified products derived from agro-biodiversity in 4 palm-growing regions are being promoted and commercialized</p> <p>3.2. Biodiversity conservation practices in palm oil regions is widely adopted based on widely adoption of sustainable principles and criteria</p>	<p>- 50% of the area cultivated with African palm certified under the Principles & Criteria (P&C) of the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring system designed and operating to follow-up on compliance with RSPO P&C in Colombia - No. of farms/producer organizations selling certified palm oil and/or agro-biodiversity products identified through market studies - No. of producers trained in RSPO certification scheme - No. of producers trained in green markets for agro and biodiversity products - 2 regional events promoting agro-biodiversity products in palm-growing regions 	0.49	27.3	1.31	72.7	1.80
4. Project management				0.43	25.1	3.19	74.9	3.63
Total project costs				4.25	26	14.13	74	18.38

* List the dollar amount by project components/activities.

** STA = Scientific & technical analysis.

B. INDICATIVE FINANCING PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE PROJECT (\$)

	Project Preparation	Project	Agency Fee	Total
GEF Grant		4,250,000	425,000	4,675,000
Co-financing	572,000	14,130,000		14,702,000
Total	572,000	18,380,000	425,000	19,377,000

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE (\$), IF AVAILABLE

Co-financing Source	Cash	In-kind	Total
Project Government Contribution (Regional Environmental Authorities, MADR & other partner authorities):	5,937,221	2,277,779	8,215,000
GEF Agency(ies)		0	0
Bilateral Aid Agency(ies)		0	0
Multilateral Agency(ies)		0	0
Private Sector (FEDEPALMA)	4,200,000	1,415,000	5,615,000
NGO (WWF)	150,000	150,000	300,000
Others		0	0
Total co-financing	10,287,221	3,842,779	14,130,000

D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY FOCAL AREA(S), AGENCY (IES) SHARE AND COUNTRY(IES)*

Not Applicable (N.A.) – single focal area, country, and GEF Agency project.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. STATE THE ISSUE, HOW THE PROJECT SEEKS TO SOLVE IT, AND THE EXPECTED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED: During the last fifteen years, the palm-growing industry has expanded rapidly from 88,000 hectares in 1991 to 330,000 in 2007. Over the same period, oil production increased from 26,000 tons to 713,000 – a substantial rate of growth both in production and productivity. Palm oil figures prominently within the GoC’s plans for expanding biofuel production in terms of the availability of suitable land (350,000 ha. of which estimated for the production of biodiesel mix). The areas expected to see the greatest expansion of African palm are the North, Central (*Magdalena Medio*) and East (*Llanos Orientales*), which concentrate 90% of current palm oil production.

Concerns for the current development of the palm industry in Colombia include its potential damage to areas of high conservation value and the subsequent loss of biodiversity associated with productive and extractive activities from different sectors. The establishment of these activities in unfit areas, the use of inappropriate agricultural practices together with inadequate land planning is at the root of land use changes, deforestation, forest fires, changes in hydrological regimes, erosion and sedimentation in palm growing areas, which in turn affects the productivity and sustainability of palm crops and increases their level of risk in relation to natural disasters. More data is needed to comprehensively understand the impacts of current and future industrial palm production on biodiversity in Colombia.

In addition, the natural assets in palm-growing regions in Colombia are isolated from regional biodiversity conservation schemes, among others due to the lack of knowledge on and underestimation of their value. 15% of palm-growing regions (nearly 45,000 ha) is covered by natural ecosystems and contributes to hydrological regulation, biodiversity protection and maintenance of biological corridors that help connect natural areas of ecological importance for watersheds in palm regions. There is little information to assess the biological or ecosystem importance of these natural ecosystems present in palm-growing regions so as to protect and expand their coverage in current or future cropping.

4 palm-growing regions in the country have strategic biological and ecosystem characteristics: the Western region is located in the municipality of *Tumaco*¹ and pertains to what is known as Biogeographical *Chocó* – one of the most biodiverse areas globally; the Central region is located in the inter-Andean valley of the *Magdalena Medio*, rich in continental wetlands; the Eastern region comprises the areas of low foothills and savannahs mainly in Meta and Casanare,

¹ Although not a region where palm cropping is expected to expand, current sowing practices in the area must be improved and their expansion limited and/or discouraged.

with ecosystems whose value for the provision of environmental services is largely unknown; and finally, the Northern region covering the *departamentos* of Cesar, Bolívar, Córdoba, Sucre and Magdalena, contains the most important remnants of dry forests and flood savannahs in Colombia making up the *Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta*. Specific project sites in each region will be selected in accordance with the zoning of suitable area for palm cropping to be developed by the Ministry of Environment and its Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM).

In order to contribute to the prevention of natural resource degradation and biodiversity loss in these palm-growing regions, as well as to enhance their natural assets and linkages with regional conservation schemes, the project would finance the following components and key activities:

1. **Integrated agro-ecosystem management** – This component has two primary objectives: i) to generate connectivity and enhance functionality of agro-ecological systems within oil palm production landscapes with local, regional, national and global environmental values; and ii) an in situ, sound conservation strategy for oil palm regions through legal and technical instruments in existence that is being broadly implemented. These objectives will be attained through complementation of existing biological and ecosystem characterizations of each palm-growing region (IAvH, IGAC 2007) that will help determine their strategic importance and potential linkages to existing regional ecological structures; design and implementation in each region of land management tools to strengthen restoration, protection, connectivity and management processes of high conservation value ecosystems, taking into account whether they will be applied in existing or new cropping areas and the results from the ecosystem characterization; adoption of best practices and environmental and biodiversity friendly technologies, taking into account progress in palm cropping regarding land planning and use, and integrated pest management and biological control. Land management tools and good agro-ecological practices will be complemented with efforts to strengthen and build institutional capacity in extension services from sector-supporting institutions to support farmer adoption of agreed best practices and biodiversity-friendly production models, through technical assistance, training and support., with clearly defined roles and contributions from the different industry actors. The enhanced extension services will be financially supported by existing earmarked parafiscal fees charged to sector-producer associations to support innovation and development for the industry, including improved environmental performance and resource usage.
2. **Environmental services** – through the development of specific guidelines, this component will formulate technical proposals to connect natural ecosystems within palm oil plantations to existing local/regional conservation schemes. Also, this component will support efforts to establish and pilot a scheme of long-term policy instruments to influence land-owners' behavior, thus ensuring a flexible portfolio of tools that together will assure cost-effective conservation practices and the provision of ecosystem services. This portfolio will consider and evaluate the pertinence of conditional payments from water users and others benefiting from well-defined environmental services provided by high conservation value areas within each palm region and enhanced by their connectivity to oil palm growers or land managers. These payments could include environmental benefits from avoided deforestation, thus expanding the potential for generating global environmental benefits of the project, while maintaining the primary focus on biodiversity conservation. Under past GEF projects executed by IAvH, institutions such as CIPAV and the IAvH have advanced in PES models associated with water resources and land use change that could be further developed in specific watersheds in palm-growing areas. To this end, the component will develop technical proposals and a pilot payment scheme based on the economic assessment and integrated valuation of ecosystem services.
3. In particular, the GEF resources will finance activities required in the design and implementation of the PES, such as valuation of ecosystem services in each of the four palm-growing regions; stakeholder characterization; land use status characterization; identification of alternative management and conservation options; and the design of the PES scheme in cooperation with different public and private actors, as well as the tools needed to monitor the implementation of the instruments.
4. **Green markets development** – with a view to promote integrated agro-ecosystem management and biodiversity friendly land uses in palm-growing regions, this component will assist farms to certify and market their products and subproducts. Certification of palm oil under the principles and criteria (P&C) of the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) will contribute to positively differentiate and place raw materials and products from oil palm – including biofuel – in international and national markets given their contribution to biodiversity conservation and the environmental performance of their entire productive and marketing chain. In addition, market and bio-ecological studies will be undertaken to identify and promote the commercialization of other species and products associated with the agro-biodiversity of palm oil growing areas. Technical assistance and training will fortify this initiative. As for the social performance of palm oil cropping, this component shall place special attention to ensure participation of small to medium-sized farms in all project interventions. A monitoring scheme will be implemented to assess the implementation of the P&C of the RSPO and other agro-ecological and biodiversity-friendly practices in selected study areas.
5. **Project management** – this component will enable the project's financial, technical, legal and administrative execution, as well as its monitoring and evaluation, including on the state and quality of the key natural resources

involved in palm production. The proposed activities will go alongside dissemination, awareness-raising and education programs aimed at different actors in the palm industry as well as other sectors and stakeholders, including communities in each region. These activities will be cross-cutting to the project.

Through the implementation of these components, the project will result in: i) enhanced connectivity between natural ecosystems present in African palm plantations and local conservation schemes; ii) the protection, restoration and conservation of high value conservation areas in each region with participation from social actors present in palm agro-ecosystems; iii) the recovery and maintenance of agro-biodiversity related to palm productive systems; iv) increased awareness and adoption of best practices for the conversion of productive systems with a landscape approach in a regional context, all of which will result in improved biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and enhanced provision of ecosystem goods and services.

- B. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES/PLANS.** The project is consistent with national priorities included in key policy instruments and other GoC plans and programs. On the first hand, the 1991 Constitution of Colombia established the responsibility of the Colombian state to protect biodiversity and end the environment, as well as to plan the management and use of natural resources, in order to control factors of environmental degradation and guarantee the nation's sustainable development.

The proposal is also consistent with Colombia's ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1994 and the resulting National Biodiversity Policy (1996) and Action Plan "21st Century Biodiversity", which promote sustainably managing natural resources, developing biodiversity's economic potential and assessing the economic value of the ecosystem services it provides. To prevent degradation of natural habitats caused by sector activities with special attention on land use planning and environmental management; the Biodiversity Action Plan sets a goal to expand existing knowledge on conflicting and complementary elements between biodiversity and agriculture, as well as to better integrate sector and environmental planning.

The current National Development Plan (NDP) 2006-2010 promotes a sustainable development that mainstreams environmental and prevention and management risk considerations, water management and land use planning processes in order to reduce social costs; and adopts biodiversity conservation, knowledge and sustainable use as part of the country's development strategies. In addition, the NDP includes a strategy to promote competitive and sustainable productive processes and defines a series of instruments for the Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen the country's exporting potential, through the improvement of the environmental performance of productive sectors where environmental protection is not perceived as an additional cost but rather becomes an opportunity to access environmental and socially conscious international markets. These proposals supporting Colombia's sustainable development are also included in policy document *Vision Colombia 2019* and the National Environmental Policy.

The project would also support the implementation of policy documents CONPES 3477 of 2007 regarding the palm sector and the need to strengthen its environmental planning, as well as CONPES 3510 of 2008 on biofuel expansion in Colombia, which recognizes the role of the palm industry with strengthened good practices, certification schemes and socioenvironmental considerations, in accordance with the vision of the palm oil sector that strengthens the fundamental values in democracy, social sensibility, technological advance, quality of the process and products in a sustainable development context.

- C. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH [GEF STRATEGIES](#) AND FIT WITH STRATEGIC PROGRAMS:** This initiative is consistent with the Strategic Objectives of the GEF Biodiversity Program. On the one hand, incorporating ecosystem planning criteria in palm-growing regions is directly related to Long-term Objective No. 2, seeking to mainstream biodiversity in production landscapes and sectors. The proposed project will include activities that fit with both strategic programs under said objective: (i) strengthening policy framework for mainstreaming biodiversity through territorial planning and (ii) land management, and fostering markets for biodiversity goods and services. Moreover, two of the priority ecosystems identified for the GEF-4 would be addressed by this project: forests and tropical savannahs.
- D. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:** The project's support for agricultural production that enhances biodiversity conservation is related to different initiatives currently in place to strengthen agricultural and rural development and knowledge in Colombia. The Agricultural Transition project in Colombia, supported with a US\$30 million IBRD loan, with the aim of "...contributing to the competitiveness of Colombian agriculture and improving the accessibility of export-potential products to international markets" among others, will develop a prospective science and technology agenda for palm oil which will further support sustainable palm cropping. In addition, the project will implement and complement recommendations by the economic and sector work undertaken by the WB at the request of the GoC through its National Planning Department, which will assess social, environmental and economic aspects of biofuel production in Colombia with emphasis on African palm biodiesel and whose results are due in October 2009. Furthermore, during project preparation lessons learned from the WB IFC global project on "Biodiversity and Agricultural Commodities Program (BACP)" will be incorporated as they relate to the Colombian case and the objectives of this proposal. Like the BACP project, the proposed GEF project will address drivers of biodiversity loss associated within agricultural landscapes and promote producer participation in markets where agro-ecosystem friendly production that incorporates social and environmental considerations throughout the value chain is recognized. Moreover, the proposed project goes beyond farm-

level implementation of good practices to complement it with tools of regional character. Additionally, both Fedepalma as an executing agency of the proposed project and WWF as a technical advisory partner are members of the Round Table of Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) involved in the BACP Steering Committee, enabling further collaboration and coordination between both initiatives.

The proposal will also build upon the results of GEF-World Bank projects developed in recent years seeking to mainstream environmental considerations in productive sectors, such as the regional intervention “Integrated Approaches to Ecosystem Management” (P072979) and the “Andean Region Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity” project (P063317). Both initiatives developed methodologies to design and implement land management tools in cattle ranching, coffee, potato between other productive systems and payment for environmental schemes which will provide important lessons for the current proposal for environmental sustainability and enhanced biodiversity in palm agro-ecosystems. Two initiatives currently under preparation will also provide input for this proposal: the GEF-WB “Mainstreaming biodiversity in sustainable cattle ranching”, up-scaling pilot models in the regional project to promote biodiversity-friendly land use changes in cattle ranching farms, and the GEF-UNDP project to mainstream biodiversity in the coffee sector in Colombia, with similar methodologies and tools.

In addition, the project will supply complementary actions to strengthen the following ongoing initiatives: the participatory process for the national interpretation of the principles and criteria on the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO); the development of a national guideline for sustainable production of biofuels in Colombia; the strengthening of the Cleaner Production Agreement between the Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development, the palm oil sector, and regional environmental authorities (which will include aspects for both sustainable production and consumption); the multi-stakeholder initiative to develop a suitability map for palm oil cultivation in Colombia which incorporates a soil and climate variables, as well as environmental and socioeconomic considerations.

- E. DESCRIBE THE INCREMENTAL REASONING OF THE PROJECT:** In spite of palm oil sector efforts, important gaps persist in biodiversity and landscape management, connectivity and integration of high conservation value areas, ecosystem services valuation and the access of small producers to certification schemes such as the RSPO, through the implementation of sustainable practices. Given that, GEF resources are fundamental to ensure that the palm-growing sector comprising small, medium and large producers in Colombia adopts biodiversity-friendly production systems.

On the other hand, it is necessary to develop on the ground experiences that will orient the establishment of long-term mechanisms such as incentives, PES, and planning instruments in palm regions, as well as to integrate efforts by the productive sector represented by FEDEPALMA, environmental national and regional authorities, research institutes such as the IAvH and environmental NGOs such as the WWF, in local, regional and national planning processes for sustainable palm-growing. Without GEF support, palm cropping could continue to be individual and chaotic from a land planning perspective.

- F. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED. OUTLINE THE RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES, INCLUDING IMPROVING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE, THAT THE PROJECT PROPOSES TO UNDERTAKE:**

RISK	MITIGATION
The project inadvertently supports expansion of the palm cropping activity to unfit areas or protected areas	Support to producers will be provided for those in areas considered fit for African palm cropping in Colombia, criteria included in certification processes; in addition, specific intervention sites will be selected taking into account the GoC’s zoning of suitable areas for palm cropping to be published by the Ministry of Environment and IDEAM by early 2009
Small-sized production will not benefit from the resources foreseen by the project for tool implementation	Eligibility and targeting criteria will be designed to guarantee the participation of small to medium-sized farms in the activities and technical instruments foreseen under the project, including in certification schemes; <i>campesino</i> cropping possibilities existing today in <i>Magdalena Medio</i> and <i>Chocó</i> will be explored
Desirable private sector- <i>campesino</i> farmer alliances are not enabled	Institutional arrangements will identify relevant industry actors and mechanisms to ensure their participation and commitment in project implementation so as to maximize project impacts in terms of social sustainability of African palm cropping
Farmers are not willing to adopt changes in their	FEDEPALMA’s participation as project executing agency

productive systems	will provide farmers with associative tools that will make the transition easier (e.g. technical assistance), including the association's political summon and clearly defined support from other industry actors; price-premiums for certified palm products and PES would provide additional incentives
Users of environmental services provided to and by oil-palm-producing regions are unwilling to pay for them	The development of PES mechanisms builds on substantial experience accumulated by the IAvH in the development of payment mechanisms for cattleranching and mixed-agriculture landscapes already in operation. Furthermore, studies under preparation for the Colombian Cattle ranching project as well as future assessments by the National Protected Area Conservation Trust Fund regarding PES potential will provide key input.
Certification and green market development do not provide sufficient financial resources to promote the desired changes	Although these are complementary mechanisms to leverage funds to promote the adoption of good agricultural practices and landscape management tools in palm crops, the sector expansion under GoC plans requires the inclusion of sustainability criteria to compete internationally and crop in suitable geographic areas.

As for risks related to climate change, enhancing natural ecosystem connectivity in palm-growing regions through land management tools (e.g. biological corridors) will favor species' mobility and adaptation to climate change effects.

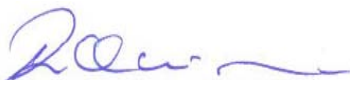
- G. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED [COST-EFFECTIVENESS](#) OF THE PROJECT. IF COST-EFFECTIVENESS IS NOT PRESENTED, OUTLINE THE STEPS THAT PROJECT PREPARATION WOULD UNDERTAKE TO PRESENT COST-EFFECTIVENESS AT CEO ENDORSEMENT:** The traditional conservation approaches seeking to take thousands of hectares out of production would be very costly and non-feasible to do from a social perspective. The project's approach linking production and conservation in intervened rural landscapes has demonstrated to be a more cost-effective strategy in the Colombian case (e.g for cattle ranching and mixed-agriculture landscapes), with higher social appropriation of related results and tools and enhanced ecosystem preservation. Working directly with the palm sector allows farmers to maintain the productive nature of their activity, while improving their practices towards a more sustainable use of natural resources. The proposed project will help develop a framework of institutional agreements in order to allow the adoption of principles, criteria and practices for sustainable oil-palm agro-ecosystems. These principles, criteria and practices will also facilitate access to specialized green markets. The portfolio of instruments will ensure cost-effective conservation practices and the provision of ecosystem services, which will be sustainable over time thanks to the strengthening of regional and national capacity. In addition, incentive schemes will be assessed during project preparation, including for small-sized cropping, as well as for the provision of ecosystem services through the PES scheme proposed in palm agro-ecosystems in an integrated vision of the territory. The PES scheme will be designed upon principles of clear identification of the environmental services provided by land owners that will make payment agreements feasible and reasonable from the buyer's perspective. Furthermore, payments will be granted on a conditional basis upon fulfillment of pre-defined criteria. Selection of potential beneficiaries of the PES scheme will consider high-value ecosystem areas where high risks of land use change or high opportunity costs for conservation are identified.
- H. JUSTIFY THE GEF AGENCY COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE:** The IDB has engaged in activities to support the Government of Colombia advance its goal of becoming a world-class leader for bioenergy, while generating positive externalities, such as diversification of the energy portfolio (promoting cogeneration with bagasse from sugarcane and residual biomass from palm), employment generation in rural areas, technology transfer, sound resource management and alternative options to illicit crops in the Colombian territory. Some of the technical cooperation (CO-T1059, US\$ 0.83 M) provided to the country includes activities that will finance the preparation of a Research, Development and Innovation Fund for Biofuels (FIDIB, acronym in Spanish), which seeks to identify research and innovation priorities throughout the biofuels supply chain to improve the competitiveness and sound production of the sector and catalyze public-private partnership for research and technological development. Furthermore, the Bank is supporting the development of policy and regulation in bioenergy, preparation of a life cycle assessment of the supply chain of biofuels in Colombia, and mechanism to promote small agricultural entrepreneurs to cultivate bioenergy crops as a substitute for illicit crops with technical cooperation CO-T1052 (US\$ 1.5 M). As a result of the latter, the project seeks to foster information development that will enhance the investment environment in sustainable bioenergies. Furthermore, the Bank has experience in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in productive landscapes/seascapes through several technical cooperation and GEF projects seeking to strengthen best practices, research and development, and the inclusion of sustainability criteria.

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINTS AND GEF AGENCIES

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the [country endorsement letter\(s\)](#) or [regional endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template).

<i>Claudia Mora Pineda Vice Minister of Environment Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development</i>	Date: <i>September 14, 2009</i>
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B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.	
 <i>Ricardo Quiroga</i> GEF Agency Coordinator	Carolina Jaramillo Project Contact Person Tel. and Email: +1-202-623-3148; carolinaj@iadb.org