

GEF

# Global Environment Facility

**MOHAMED T. EL-ASHRY**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
AND CHAIRMAN

March 29, 1999

Dear Council Member:

I am enclosing a medium-sized project proposal entitled, *Colombia: Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Serrania del Baudo Project*. The GEF will contribute \$750,000 towards the total cost of \$2.99 million.

The project will assist Colombia and interested stakeholders to address conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing activities in one of the most biologically important regions of the world, the Choco biogeographic region. The area is undergoing a rapid process of transformation of its natural habitats, in particular due to the deforestation caused by the expansion of the agricultural frontier. If present trends continue, the Choco region would likely be severely degraded in 30 years.

The great biodiversity that is present is closely linked to the cultural dynamics of the Amerindian indigenous and Afrocolombian communities. The implementation of planned development projects in the Pacific region (ports, roads, industrial poles) represents a threat of serious consequences to the biodiversity, and for the integrity and permanence of the traditional cultures.

The GEF project will cover the foreseen incremental costs of

- gathering and systematizing of information on ecological, social, economic, political, and institutional aspects of the region;
- training of local stakeholders in themes related to the conservation, sustainable use, and benefit sharing of biodiversity;
- strengthening of local institutions so they may better define local and regional policies, strategies, and projects for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- development of a regional framework of protected areas;
- local projects for the sustainable use of biodiversity; and
- project management requirements

The proposal is being sent to you for information. We would welcome any comments you may wish to provide by April 16, 1999, in accordance with the procedures approved by the Council.

Sincerely,

Mohamed T. El-Ashry  
Chief Executive Officer and  
Chairman

Enclosure:

*Colombia: Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Serrania del Baudo Project*

cc: Alternates, Implementing Agencies, STAP

**GEFSEC Project Tracking System**

***Response Due Date: 03/23/99***

**Correspondence Description**

Addressed to: <i>Mr. Kenneth King</i>	Correspondence Date: 02/16/99
Date Received: 02/16/99	Organization: WB
From: Lars Vidaeus	

<b><i>Assigned To: K. Kumari</i></b>
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<b><i>Status: Open</i></b>
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Type: Fax
Topic: MSPROJECT: COLOMBIA: Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Serrania del Baudo Project

**Action Instructions**

- For Bilateral meeting
- For information only. No action needed.
- Please handle/respond on behalf of Mr. Kenneth King and provide a copy.
- Please handle/respond on behalf of Mr. Mohamed El-Ashry and provide a copy.
- Please prepare a draft response and return to Program Coordinator
- Please reply directly and provide a copy.
- Please review and/or technical comments

**Special Instructions**

Please forward your comments to Kanta by March 8.

**Information Copies Sent To:**

M. Ramos, H. Acquay, A. Merla, M. Cruz, J. Taylor

<b><i>Projects File Room Location:</i></b>
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**Note: A copy/original of the document is being sent directly to your attention.**

**Please return this page with a copy of the incoming correspondence and the reply/action taken to Program File Manager (GEFSEC Project File Room) before or by due date with the original copy of the correspondence and the reply/action.**

FEB. 16. 1999 4:03PM WORLD BANK - ENVGC 202-522-3256  
TO: GEF SECRETARIAT  
THE WORLD BANK/IFC/M.I.G.A.

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 16, 1999

TO: Mr. Kenneth King, Assistant CEO, GEF  
Attention: Program Coordination

FROM: *OK for*  
Lars Vidaeus, GEF Executive Coordinator

EXTENSION: 3-4188

SUBJECT: **Colombia – Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Serrania del Baudo Project  
GEF Medium-Sized Project (MSP)**

1. Please find attached the Project Brief for the “Colombia: Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Serrania del Baudo Project” submitted to the World Bank by Fundacion Natura. The project has been endorsed by the GEF national operational focal point (see letter, also attached).
2. In accordance with operational guidance for approval of Medium-Sized Projects, we are submitting this project brief to the GEF Secretariat for action by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). We are simultaneously circulating copies to UNDP/GEF, UNEP/GEF, STAP, and the CBD Secretariat for comments within 15 working days, or by March 9, 1999.
3. We look forward to receiving the GEF Secretariat’s comments on this Medium Size Project by March 23, 1999 (if not before). Thank you and best regards.

**Distribution:**

K. King, GEF Secretariat (Fax: 23240)  
R. Asenjo, UNDP (Fax:212-906-6998)  
A. Djoghlaif, UNEP (Nairobi) (Fax: 9-011-254-2-520-825)  
R. Khanna, UNEP (Washington) (Fax: 202-331-4225)  
M. Gadgil, STAP (Fax: 9-011-91-80-334-1683 or 91-80-331-5428)  
M. Griffith, STAP Secretariat (Nairobi) (fax 254-2-623-140)  
H. Zedan, Biological Diversity Convention Secretariat (Fax: 9-1-514-288-6588)

**WORLD BANK**

**COLOMBIA**

**Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Western Slope of the Serranía del Baudó**

**GEF Medium-Sized Project**

**Project Brief**

**February 16, 1999**

Colombia: Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Chocó Region

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**I. PROJECT SUMMARY**

<p>1. Project name: Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Western Slope of the Serranía del Baudó.</p>	<p>2. GEF Implementing Agency: World Bank</p>
<p>3. Country in which the project is being implemented: Colombia</p>	<p>4. Country eligibility: Colombia ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1994 (Law 165).</p>
<p>5. GEF focal area: Biological Diversity</p>	<p>6. Operational program/Short-term measure: Coastal, marine, and freshwater ecosystems (OP2) and Forest ecosystems (OP3)</p>
<p>7. Project Linkage to national priorities, actions, and programs: The importance of the Biogeographical Region of the Chocó is recognized in Law 99 of 1993 in which the need for an environmental policy is specifically established (Article 5). Based on the ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1994 and the development of environmental policies by the Ministry of the Environment, current strategies will be reinforced and alternatives will be developed for the sustainable use of biodiversity in the western slope of the Serranía del Baudó in the Colombian Pacific. These measures will take into consideration ethnic and cultural dynamics, local knowledge, appropriation and management of the territory, and will support the global conservation of biodiversity. Above-mentioned environmental policies developed by the Colombian Ministry of the Environment include the Forestry Policy (1996), the National Environmental Plan (1994), the National Policy on Biodiversity (1996), guidelines for the formulation of the National Policy of Environmental Organization of Territory, and the basis for a National Policy of Integrated Organization and Sustainable Development of Coastal Zones.</p>	
<p>8. GEF national operational focal point and date of country endorsement Block A: the project was given the official support of the Ministry of the Environment of Colombia. Correspondence from Dr. Fabio Arjona, Vice Minister of the Environment, to Dr. Christine Kimes, Oct. 29, 1997. MSP Brief: the project was endorsed by the Ministry of Environment of Colombia. Correspondence from Dr. Juan Mayr, Minister of Environment, to Dr. Christine Kimes, Jan. 13, 1999</p>	
<p><b>Project Objectives and Activities</b></p>	
<p>9. Project rationale and objectives:  The project rationale is the development of a participatory management system for the sustainable use of biodiversity.  <u>Objective</u> The development of a strategy for the sustainable use of biodiversity in the western slope of the Serranía del Baudó in a joint effort between governmental institutions and civil society, and for the benefit of the local communities.</p>	<p>Indicators:   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two land use management plans developed in a participatory manner.</li> <li>• Guidelines for the sustainable development of fishing activities developed.</li> <li>• Wildlife Management plan in indigenous territory developed.</li> <li>• Guidelines for the sustainable development of agricultural and livestock activities developed.</li> <li>• Key species conservation plan.</li> <li>• Two municipal environmental citizen councils created.</li> <li>• Sustainable use systems of biodiversity developed.</li> </ul> </p>
<p>10. Project outcomes:  1. Ecological and socioeconomic information and information concerning regional plans and projects available to local stakeholders.  2. Set of indicators for decision-making concerning the sustainable use of biodiversity developed.</p>	<p>Indicators:  1.1 Two centers of environmental information in the region created. 1.2 Two GIS available for use by local stakeholders.  2.1 At least ten indicators designed and used in</p>

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<p>(State/pressure/response)</p> <p>3. Local stakeholders trained in legal and technical aspects for the sustainable use of biodiversity.</p> <p>4. Communication plan implemented.</p> <p>5. Policies and strategies for the sustainable use of biodiversity planned, agreed, and defined by local stakeholders.</p> <p>6. Network of private protected areas established.</p> <p>7. Local sub-projects for the sustainable use of biodiversity implemented and self-sustained.</p>	<p>decision-making.</p> <p>3.1 Number of local stakeholders participating in the development of plans and policies for the sustainable use of biodiversity increased by 25% over the baseline.</p> <p>3.2 Number of proposals of local initiative for the sustainable use of biodiversity increased by 25% over the baseline.</p> <p>4.1 5,000 informed persons.</p> <p>4.2 20 organizations managing information.</p> <p>4.3 One web page functioning.</p> <p>4.4 Two centers of environmental communication in use by local stakeholders.</p> <p>5.1 Two (2) land use management plans developed in a participatory manner.</p> <p>5.2 Number of agreements, norms, and regulations for the sustainable use of biodiversity increased by 25% over the baseline.</p> <p>5.3 Number of local stakeholders participating in national decision-making activities for the sustainable use of biodiversity increased by 25% over the baseline.</p> <p>5.4 10 local organizations legally established.</p> <p>6.1 8 initiatives for the establishment of protected areas identified (categories I-VI of the IUCN).</p> <p>6.2 4 protected areas management guideline plans.</p> <p>6.3 12,000 additional hectares under protection .</p> <p>7.1 One general database of local initiatives and projects developed.</p> <p>7.2 20 proposals designed.</p> <p>7.3 Nine sub- projects funded and implemented.</p>
<p>11. Project activities to achieve outcomes (including cost in US \$)</p> <p>1. Gathering and systematization of ecological and socioeconomic information about the region, including plans and programs. (Total cost \$1,001,300; baseline \$901,300; GEF \$100,00)</p> <p>2. Education and Communication. (Total cost \$499,040; baseline \$339,040; GEF \$160,00).</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>1.1 One bibliographic database generated.</p> <p>1.2 One GIS developed.</p> <p>1.3 A set of ten indicators developed.</p> <p>2.1 30 training activities.</p> <p>2.2 Six study tours effectuated.</p> <p>2.3 Education and extension material produced (10 booklets, 2 posters, a brochure, a book, a video, a web page, announcements in local media).</p> <p>2.4 260 persons trained.</p>



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15. Date of initial submission of project concept: October 29, 1997

**Information on the Project Submission: Project Brief**

16. Project identification number:

17. Implementing Agency contact person:

Paola Agostini, World Bank, tel. (1-202) 458-2416, fax (1-202) 522-0262, e-mail

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18. Project linkage to Implementing Agency program(s): The project is consistent with the Country Assistance Strategy of the World Bank Group for Colombia, which identifies the protection and the conservation of the environment together with macroeconomic stability as the essential elements to ensure sustainable development. In particular it identifies that special attention should be paid to (1) incorporating environmental considerations and sustainable development incentives into key production sectors and the provision of public service; (2) enhance capacity of environmental management authorities and seek opportunities for partnership with other government agencies and the private sector, NGOs and academia; and (3) promote economic opportunities for the less-favored sectors of the population through environmentally sustainable activities. In keeping with this framework, the World Bank supports the implementation of forestry policies in Colombia, education and research in universities, environmental research, and the protection, rehabilitation, and management of watersheds. Project support related to biodiversity conservation is as follows:

Presently the World Bank is supporting the Natural Resources Program (NRP) through the loan WB/3692-CO. The NRP is related to this MSP proposal through its Pacific Region components. Particularly the World Bank supports (1) the ecological zoning of the region, (2) the establishment and demarcation of indigenous territory, (3) the collective land titling to black communities, (4) the analysis and strengthening of the regional bodies, and (5) the sustainable management of National Parks. While the World Bank NRP supports the Management Plan for the Utria National Park and the land titling to the black communities, the FNC/GEF MSP works in the buffer zone and surrounding area of the Utria Park for the sustainable use of biodiversity.

3 additional WB/GEF projects are under preparation in other regions in Colombia:

1. Community Based Management for the Naya Conservation Corridor. Executing Agency: Fundación Proselva. The objective of this medium sized project is to develop and implement a community based management and monitoring plan of biodiversity endorsed by local communities and government, to be the long term guide for future development in the region. Block A granted.
2. Bioregional Management for Conservation of Biodiversity. Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. Executing Agency: Fundación Pro-Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. The general objective of this project is to conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable use of natural resources. Block B granted.
3. Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Andes Region. Executing Agencies: Ministry of Environment/Von Humbolt Institute/Regional Corporations/NGOs. The overall objective of the project is to support the implementation of the National Biodiversity Plan in the Andes Ecoregions and assist in the application of key strategies for the conservation, sustainable and equitable use, and improved knowledge of biological resources. Block B granted.

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## II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### A. Project Rationale and Objectives

The Chocó Biogeographical Region is a threatened biota or "hot spot" in tropical forests. It extends from eastern Panama through the west of Colombia, to northeastern Ecuador and along the coast of the Pacific Ocean (map 1). The region is characterized by high levels of precipitation; slightly pronounced dry periods; insufficient drainage, and a high degree of cloudiness. These conditions have created the Chocó as a region with two basic characteristics: high endemism and great diversity of ecosystems and species. The Chocó region is an area of ecological confluence, given that until the middle of the century the forests of Central America, the Ecuadorian Pacific, and the Andean Valley of the Magdalena in Colombia all came together in this region. Adding to this, the presence of flora and fauna species from the Amazon makes this one of the regions with the highest levels of biodiversity on the planet.

In Colombia the region has undergone a process of transformation of its habitats and natural ecosystems, in particular due to the deforestation caused by the expansion of the agricultural frontier. If the rate of deforestation of 154,000 hectares per year recorded over the past three decades remains constant, the habitats and natural ecosystems of the Colombian Chocó will disappear by the year 2030. The development of infrastructural projects without the required environmental considerations and the non-sustainable use of wild species of flora and fauna have also contributed to the transformation of the natural eco-systems. Recently developed environmental policies have not been sufficient to assure the conservation of biodiversity in the Colombian Chocó. New policies are required which should be developed with the participation of local governments and communities to ensure the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in this region.

**Project Area:** the project's area of influence is the western slope of the Serranía del Baudó, in particular the region that includes the municipality of Nuquí in the south and Bahía Solano in the north. On the western border, it includes the coastal strip and the shore of the gulfs of Tribugá and Cupica. The eastern border is the western slope of the Serranía del Baudó that runs from the north to the south. The total area influenced by the project is about 500,000 ha and includes the Utría National Park which has an extension of about 60,000 ha.

The western slope of the Serranía del Baudó (map 2) contains a wide variety of ecosystems such as mangroves, estuaries, coral formations, rocky and sandy beaches, and humid tropical forests. Indigenous, afrocolombian, and mestizo groups reside within the zone. The great biodiversity that is still present is closely linked to the cultural dynamics of the indigenous and afrocolombian communities. Their cultures are based on a close relationship with nature and are regulated by the fragile and vulnerable characteristics of their biophysical environment. Their traditional systems of production are characterized by the use of a variety of crops, gathering of native forest products, and traditional methods of marine and freshwater fishing, interaction between the systems of production and the processes of natural regeneration, and respect for natural cycles and communal systems of labor.

For the indigenous and afrocolombian populations that inhabit the western slope of the Serranía del Baudó, the land is a sociocultural category that represents culture and provides them with the means for survival. The planned implementation of many development projects in the pacific region (ports, roads, industrial poles) represents a threat bearing serious consequences for the biodiversity, and for the integrity and permanence of the traditional cultures.

The FNC/GEF project is submitted for funding under GEF Operational Program 2 (Coastal, Marine, and Freshwater Ecosystems) and Operational Program 3 (Forest Ecosystems). It is directed towards the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and in accordance with the established norms of Articles 7 and 10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity of which Colombia is a signatory and which was ratified in 1994. Additionally, the project is relevant given that it responds to the guidelines proposed by the government of Colombia in its National Policy on Biodiversity, (1996) because of its contribution to the reduction of processes and activities that cause the deterioration of biodiversity, the recuperation and

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distribution of traditional knowledge and practices related to biodiversity, and the promotion of systems of sustainable use of renewable natural resources.

The objective of the proposed project is the development of a strategy for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity with the participation of local communities and administrations. The project F supports dialogue and lays the basis for a more environmentally grounded development plan for the region given that the recently proposed development programs for the region have presented conceptual and methodological differences in approach with respect to the cultural systems of its inhabitants and to their relationship with the natural environment. In particular the project will be directed to (1) the verification and generation of ecological and socioeconomic information which will be made available to the local communities and administrations; (2) the training of local stakeholders for participation in the planning processes and the defining of policies for the conservation of biodiversity in the region; (3) the establishment of a network of protected areas in the region; and (4) the formulation of proposals and the implementation of projects of local and regional interest that respond to needs of conservation and sustainable use of global biodiversity.

## B. Current Situation: *Baseline Course of Action*

Fundación Natura Colombia (FNC) has been working since 1986 in the area of the western slope of the Serranía del Baudó. This area was identified as a priority for the conservation of biodiversity because of its importance on both a national and global scale. Fundación Natura work began through the support to the creation of the Utría National Park (UNP) which was established in 1987. Since then FNC has been carrying out biological and social research projects that value and restore social and cultural forms of the utilization of natural resources, help to meet the local communities' needs, and follow up on the local and regional development projects representing high environmental risk.

These are the ongoing activities in the Baudó:

### 1. Research on the biodiversity of the western slope of the Serranía del Baudó

The zone includes ecosystems and marine communities of pelagic and littoral habitats, including coral reefs with ten hermatypic species. The coral diversity is considered high for the American Pacific Ocean: more than one hundred associated fish species have been identified. Since 1989 FNC has been monitoring the coral formations in the region in order to determine the growth rate and vulnerability, and has worked towards the recuperation of reefs that had been significantly affected by human action. Because of their strategic position in the American Pacific, the coral formations are indicators of global climatic events; in particular those associated with the El Niño phenomenon.

Associated coastal ecosystems also include mangroves, estuaries, and sandy and rocky beaches. The ecological characterization of the mangroves developed by FNC shows that the region has more than 2,200 hectares of mangroves, which includes seven of the mangrove species reported in the Colombian Pacific. The mangrove forests for the most part are in an adequate state of conservation and are not presently under stress. However, owing to the high porosity and relatively low permeability of their substrates, the mangroves are highly sensitive to hydrocarbon contamination and organic wastes. This situation could arise with the construction of planned roads and a port in the Gulf of Tribugá. The coastal zone presents more than 50 kilometers of sandy beaches. Since 1988 FNC has worked towards the conservation of marine turtles on these beaches, with (1) an increase of knowledge of the reproductive aspects of the Golfina turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and the protection of nesting females and neonatals, (2) the implementation of environmental education activities concerning this theme, and, (3) the construction of a base for the conservation of this endangered species. Studies done by FNC have also made possible the determination that the beaches of the region are an important habitat for migratory birds. Among the almost 265 bird species of the coast currently registered, 31 species are boreal migratory birds, the majority of which were found on beaches and in mangroves.

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Terrestrial ecosystems are composed of tropical humid forests and hydrological systems of rivers and ravines. Through studies performed by FNC in 1991 in the area of the UNP and its northern buffer zone (85,000 hectares), 16 different types of forests were classified. 85.33% of these forests were of high density and with very low human impact, while 14.67% had been strongly affected primarily by agriculture activity. It is believed that the percentage of impacted forests has increased since then. Within the biogeographical region of the Colombian Chocó between seven and eight thousand plant species of the 45,000 found in Colombia are believed to be present. Although there are no detailed inventories existing for the flora diversity of the area, a great diversity of species is expected to be found, especially for the Rubiaceae, Melastomataceae, Leguminosae and Piperaceae families, and relatively high levels of endemism.

Preliminary research also suggests a high diversity of bats in the region. A test sample limited to the understory forests in the UNP area reported 26 species pertaining to 13 classes (three families) with frugivorous dominance. There is advancement in the knowledge about the status of the populations of other mammals through other studies performed by FNC in which the demand for wildlife by indigenous communities living in the UNP was evaluated. Of the 91 vertebrate species which are used by these communities, around 50% (42 species) are mammals. Among these, nine are considered threatened or endangered. Two of these, *Tayassu pecari* and *Tapirus bairdii*, are found to be extinct locally. The number of species of birds registered is expected to increase considerably once detailed tests of the land ecosystems are performed. According to Styles (1993), the Colombian Chocó houses 838 species of birds, and almost 50% of the total bird population of Colombia—which is incidentally the richest in world with almost 1,781 species. In the region five bird species are found which are considered vulnerable or endangered. Although there are no detailed studies on reptiles and amphibians, it is important to note that the diversity of frogs is significant. The presence of poisonous toads, among which is the native *Dendrobates altobueyensis*, is also important.

The freshwater ecosystems have not been greatly studied in spite of the significant complexity of its hydrological system. It is believed that these waters have low fish species diversity and in certain invertebrate groups. FNC has identified the necessity to further research these ecosystems, which provide an important source of protein for the local populations, especially for indigenous communities.

In total, FNC has carried out close to 40 investigations covering a wide variety of conservation topics. Among these, FNC has supported 20 undergraduate, masters, and doctoral theses dealing with such themes as the productivity of mangroves, ecological agriculture, ornithology, land and marine mammals, mollusks, corals, the use and conservation of species, geographic information systems for the evaluation of environmental impacts, strategies for social participation, anthropology, and design.

## 2. Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Natural Resources Program: Presently the Natural Resources Program – NRP - of the Ministry of the Environment is being carried out with funds provided by the WB/3692-CO. The Program proposes to (1) stop ecosystem degradation with an emphasis on the Chocó Biogeographical Region; (2) promote sustainable use; and (3) strengthen the management capability of local institution and local communities. In the Baudo, the development of the components of Communal Land Titling to Indigenous and Afrocolombian Communities, strengthening of Regional Committees, and National Parks Management Program (in this case assisting in the development of a management plan for the Utria National Park) is a complementary effort to the proposed FNC/GEF project, which will promote sustainable use of biodiversity in the Baudo.

Utria Regional Program: Within the targeted area of the FNC/GEF project is the Utria National Park (UNP), with an extension of 54,000 hectares. Together with INDERENA (today the Ministry of Environment) the FNC generated the necessary information for the creation of the Park in 1987. Since the creation of the park in 1987 FNC has been promoting activities directed towards the protection and conservation of biodiversity in the Park. Additionally, the National Parks Management Program in the biogeographical region of the Chocó (WB/3692/CO) includes the UNP. Within the framework of this initiative and that of FNC's Utria Regional Program (URP), workshops with stakeholders involved in tourist activity have been carried out, as well as efforts to promote the sustainable use of traditional fishing practices by local communities in the marine area of the park and its buffer zone. The objective of the URP is to make the biological wealth of the

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region a social wealth where the socioeconomic benefits for the local communities arise from sustainable natural resources use and biodiversity conservation. The FNC/GEF project will build on this ongoing experience to promote sustainable use of biodiversity in the buffer zone of the Park.

Ecological Zoning and Mapping: The component Ecological Zoning of the Colombian Pacific - EZCP, WB/3692-CO, implemented by the Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi - IGAC, constitutes an important baseline for the development of conservation programs. Through the project 43 basic maps (1:100,000) and nine thematic maps (1:500,000) have been developed. The regional approach of the project and the scales used for mapping are not the most appropriate for the development of strategies on a municipal or community level. Nevertheless, the EZCP has produced a map (1:25,000) which has already been tested and updated in the field by FNC. Furthermore, FNC has developed detailed maps and databases of various themes. Through the FNC/GEF project more detailed maps (e.g. 1:100,000 to 1:10,000) will be created expanding the thematic base to respond to local needs in terms of the ecological zoning of the territory and the conservation of biodiversity of the western slope of the Serranía del Baudó. The final maps produced by EZCP will be fundamental for the implementation of the FNC/GEF project as well as the information about the perception of the territory by local communities that will be developed during the titling process.

Environmental Programs of State Agencies at the Regional Level: The Regional Commission for Sustainable Development in the Chocó - CODECHOCO, is presently implementing, within WB/3692-CO, the Project for the Establishment of a Environmental Control System with the objective of (1) identifying the environmental and social impact caused by selected forestry projects; (2) generating indicators which contribute to a sustainable management in the biogeographical Chocó; and (3) strengthening the institutional capability of CODECHOCO. Although this project is not being implemented in the western slope of the Serranía del Baudó, the parameters developed for the sustainable use of natural forests of the region, as well as the testing methodology, will be used as a starting point in the development of indicators for the assessment of the actual state of biodiversity in the area.

Biopacifico: Another program present in the region is the Biopacifico Project (GEF-PNUD-COL/92/G3). The objective of the project was to contribute to the preparation of a development strategy for the biogeographical Chocó, in a joint effort with the local communities, and based on the application of scientific knowledge and the identification of management options for biodiversity which guarantee its protection and sustainable use. The actions supported by the Biopacifico project that were carried out in the target area of the FNC/GEF MSP proposal were limited in nature, and were not sufficient to support preparation of a full development strategy, compatible with biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, in consultation with local communities. FNC participated in the Biopacifico project, carrying out research on the production systems and land use in the El Valle River watershed (1994-1995). Additionally, through the implementation of the GEF PDF Block A, basic biological and socioeconomic information generated by the Biopacifico Project was reorganized and is utilized as a base for the FNC/GEF Project. The Board of Directors of the Biopacifico Project strongly supports the proposed effort by FNC through the medium-sized project of the GEF, given that it draws upon the experience acquired by Biopacifico, FNC, and other stakeholders. This will allow the strengthening of strategies favorable to global conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

### 3. Regional development programs

In 1992 the Colombian Government, through the National Department of Planning, developed the Plan Pacifico program: a strategy for the sustainable development of the Pacific coast of Colombia. This strategy combines an effort to invest, with funds from the Interamerican Development Bank, in the social and environmental infrastructure, strategically with investment in transportation, energy, and telecommunications. These efforts were planned as an institutional development action with the goal of raising the standard of living for the population with a process of sustainable development. The Plan has been fully developed (Phase II, period 1998-2000) and has established itself as the general directive of government efforts for the Colombian Pacific region and thus for the targeted area of the FNC/GEF project. The need for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use is highlighted.

Within the process of decentralization in Colombia, planning regions were created known as Corpes (Regional Planning Councils). Their objective is to obtain economic and social integration of the territories

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that compose each region. Corpes de Occidente is responsible for defining development strategies for the Colombian Pacific. Of particular interest to the FNC/GEF project is the Port Expansion Plan through which the national government, in response to global economy demands, has decided to increase the Colombian Pacific port capability and connecting road infrastructure. Accordingly the construction of a deep-water port in Tribugá has been proposed in the Municipality of Nuquí. However, the port will be built on top of the most important mangrove formations in the Colombian North Pacific. Furthermore, nearby coral colonies and related species, and the marine and coastal biodiversity of the Gulf of Tribugá in general will be affected. Traditionally, the indigenous and afrocolombian communities have used the area for activities such as fishing, gathering of mollusks, and itinerant farming. These activities could be adversely affected, with serious cultural alterations for the traditional human populations.

Since 1997 FNC, with resources provided by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), has been developing a training program for the indigenous and afrocolombian communities dealing with legal and environmental issues. The objective of the program is to make them aware of the impacts that the construction of the port and its connecting roads will have, and to give the environmental and legal tools to dialogue with all the stakeholders on the municipal land use plan. For example, workshops have been carried out with leaders of 26 local communities in the region which cover themes related to the legal rights of citizen participation in the planning processes of the State and of private businesses, GIS information and resolution of socio-environmental conflicts. The training provided so far has covered only a few themes and has reached a limited number of persons (45).

#### 4. Organization of Territory

The government of Colombia published Law 388 in 1997 as the Law of Territorial Development. One of the most important aspects of this law is the formulation of the Municipal Land Use Plans. The principal objectives of the plans are: (1) to contextualize the policies and objectives of development within the organization of territory as a model of integrated development, with spatial projections of the economic, social, environmental, and cultural policies; and, (2) to guide the process of land occupation and use with a zoning strategy, compatible with the environment and the historical and cultural traditions.

The municipal land use plan is an important tool for the conservation of biological diversity at the municipal level. FNC, conscious of the opportunity that this represents, has signed an agreement with the Municipality of Bahía Solano (Chocó) to aid in the process of the formulation of a Land Use Plan for the Municipality. A similar agreement is in the process of being signed with the Municipality of Nuquí. These two municipalities, with a total extension of 266,200 hectares, represent almost the totality of the targeted terrestrial area for the FNC/GEF project (see map 2). The land use plan will be formulated during the life of the project.

#### 5. Communal Land Titling

The afro-colombian population of the western slope of the Serranía del Baudó represents 90% of the total population and occupies 30% of the territory. The indigenous population represents only 4% of the total population and occupies 65% of the territory, the majority of which has been declared communal property through the titling of indigenous territory.

Entitlement of Territories to Afrocolombian Communities: The Colombian Constitution of 1991 recognizes the right of the afrocolombian communities to the communal property of territories that they have been occupying in the Colombian Pacific (Transitory Article 55). In 1993 this article was ruled upon and was converted into Law 70, which initiated the titling process. In the western slope of the Serranía del Baudó, the processes of land titling to the afro-colombian communities is currently being defined. The WB/3692-CO has supported the communal titling of five territories in the biogeographical Chocó with a total extension of 1,044,745 hectares. Within the targeted area of the proposed project, titling has not yet taken place. Nevertheless, FNC has made advancements in (1) the research of land and biodiversity use practices among the afrocolombian populations of Nuquí and Tribugá; (2) the research (in conjunction with two grass-roots organizations) concerning the knowledge and traditional uses of animal and plant species by the afrocolombian women of Nuquí and Coquí; (3) the identification and preliminary documentation of the

subsistence economy of local inhabitants; (4) the preliminary identification of forms of social organization and of division of labor which regulate these practices, (5) and the preliminary identification of local rules for access to land and resources by the afro-colombian community. Concrete results are maps (1:25,000) reflecting land ownership, resource use, conflicts and sharing; and farming, fishing, hunting, and extraction practices. Furthermore, FNC has implemented an education program on the content of the Law among five communities in the region. This information, together with that obtained on the conservation and management matrices in the territory of the afrocolombian community of the El Valle River watershed, are elements which will support land titling to afrocolombian communities. The close relationship between land and biodiversity as central elements of the afrocolombian culture make the titling of the territories to these communities one of the central elements in the achievement of the objective of the project: sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.

Territories of Indigenous Communities: The titling of lands to the indigenous communities through the creation of indigenous territories in the western slope of the Serranía del Baudó has been completed. Nevertheless, indigenous communities have solicited the enlargement of the territory through the Regional Organization of the Embera Wounaan - OREWA. These requests have not proven successful since the central government has given priority to defining the territories for the afrocolombian communities. To date, OREWA has carried out the following activities related to demarcation and constitution of the indigenous reserves, with support from the WB/3692-CO project for the Chocó biogeographical region: (1) the examination of indigenous territories in the Colombian Pacific; (2) the development of a training program which places emphasis on ethnic values and the environment; and, (3) socioeconomic, judicial, and land ownership studies for the establishment or expansion of forty-three reserves. The OREWA initiative has been an important contribution to the legalization and demarcation of indigenous territories in the Chocó region. Its efforts and results are fundamental in the planning for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in the indigenous territories that are located within the targeted area of the FNC/GEF project. Additionally, for three years FNC worked with four indigenous communities living within the UNP on an assessment of wildlife use by the communities, in order to define management strategies to guarantee the conservation and sustainable use of key species. Furthermore, FNC has made advancements in the identification and implementation of alternative farming initiatives to supply protein for the indigenous communities while at the same time reducing pressure on fauna populations. The FNC/GEF project will build on the fact that titling of land to indigenous communities has been completed. In fact it will help very much to achieve its objective of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.

### C. Expected Project Outcomes, with Underlying Assumptions and Context: *Alternative Course of Action*

The proposed MSP will focus on capacity building of local organizations and institutions and training of their members in sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity. Furthermore, a comprehensive gathering of biological, socioeconomic, and cultural information related to the conservation of biodiversity will be carried out, along with generation of new information, for the use of local stakeholders who are responsible for defining policies, programs, and projects on conservation of biodiversity for the region. Supporting local sub-projects will help the efforts for the sustainable use of biodiversity. This project approach will result in supporting dialogue and laying the basis for a more environmentally grounded development plan for the region, given that the actual programs proposed for the region have shown conceptual and methodological conflicts in respect to the cultural systems of the inhabitants and their relationship with the environment. This project will also complement other conservation initiatives that are currently being implemented.

This is a description of the expected project outcomes (as per Block 10 of the matrix in the summary sheets):

1. Ecological and socioeconomic information of regional plans and projects available to local stakeholders: Presently local stakeholders lack access to the information necessary to develop their own conservation policies for the region. Either it does not exist or it is in the hands of other stakeholders who centralize the information outside of the targeted area of the project. Within three years two centers of documentation in the region will be established containing information that will be used by local stakeholders for sustainable

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use and conservation of biodiversity. Local stakeholders will be trained in the use and management of this information.

2. Set of indicators for decision-making concerning the sustainable use of biodiversity developed (State/pressure/response): It is essential to develop a set of indicators that will allow for the systematic follow-up on the status of biodiversity in the region. The set of ten indicators will become a tool used to monitor the state of biodiversity beyond the duration of the project given that it will be incorporated into the conservation efforts that will be developed under the initiative of local stakeholders. The set of indicators will also permit the evaluation of the FNC/GEF project's impact.

3. Local stakeholders trained in legal and technical aspects for the sustainable use of biodiversity: Training programs offered by the State usually do not incorporate the conservation of biodiversity as a central element in regional capacity-building, in spite of this being one of the most biodiverse regions on the planet. Upon completion of the FNC/GEF project a program will have been developed to train a significant number of local stakeholders in themes related to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity. A special effort will be put forth for women to participate in every aspect of the planning for conservation and sustainable use.

4. Communication plan implemented: Through the communication plan a considerable amount of information generated during the implementation of the project and from other conservation initiatives in the area, will be disseminated. The creation of two regional centers of information will permit direct access for the local stakeholders to the information. The mechanisms for the dissemination of information will be defined jointly with the local stakeholders. Workshops will be organized where information will be disseminated. Materials such as booklets, brochures, posters, a video, a book, and a web page will be produced.

5. Policies and strategies for the sustainable use of biodiversity planned and defined by the local stakeholders: The conservation of biodiversity in the targeted area of the project will be the result of the strategies and policies determined with the participation of the indigenous, afrocolombian, and mestizo communities. Specifically, in three years (1) land use management plans which incorporate the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity at community, municipal, regional, public, private, inter- and intra-ethnic scales will be prepared; (2) a set of norms and regulations for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity at the community, zonal, municipal, regional, public, private, inter- and intra-ethnic scales will be prepared, and (3) inter- and intra-ethnic agreements concerning the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity within shared territories will be prepared. This process will result in the empowerment of the local stakeholders and it will allow them to bring to a local scale the process for the conservation of biodiversity.

6. Network of protected areas established: The creation of a network of eight protected areas will allow for the increment above the baseline of areas (and hectares) under different categories of conservation. The existing protected area totals 54,000 ha. The objective is to have by the end of the project 12,000 additional ha under protection. Upon project completion there will exist protected areas of strict conservation (categories I - IV of the IUCN) and areas whose conservation will be based on the sustainable use of biodiversity (categories V-VI of the IUCN). Furthermore the preliminary management guidelines for four of the areas that compose the network will be developed.

7. Local subprojects for the sustainable use of biodiversity implemented and self-sustained: Local initiative sub-projects for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in the region will be under implementation. In particular there will be (1) initiatives for the conservation of ecosystems and species, and (2) initiatives for the sustainable use of biodiversity.

#### **D. Activities and Financial Inputs Needed to Enable Changes: *Increment***

The project will be carried out over a period of three years. In order to achieve the proposed objectives and expected results, the following activities will be carried out:

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1. Gathering and systematization of ecological and socioeconomic information about the region, including existing plans and programs: FNC will create a database with the information generated within the URP. Results from other projects such as the Ecological Zoning Project, the basic research efforts of the Institute for Environmental Research - John von Neumann -, the information available in CODECHOCO, as well as information about socioeconomic, political, and institutional aspects will be included. This baseline activity has a cost estimated at US\$901,300. The estimated GEF incremental costs are US\$100,000 and the additional activities that would be carried out with GEF support include (1) the systematization of new information; (2) the creation of two information centers in the region; (3) the definition of mechanisms with the local stakeholders so that the information be made available to them; and (4) the gathering and generating of information for defining a set of indicators for decision making about the sustainable use of biodiversity. The total cost for this component is US\$1,001,300 (GEF: US\$100,000).

2. Education and communication: With funds from WWF, FNC has been and will continue to train community leaders in aspects of citizen education. With funds from Friends of the Earth, local stakeholders involved in tourism activity in the region will be trained for the reduction of the impact of this activity on biodiversity and to ensure the equal distribution of benefits. Furthermore, FNC will assist in the design and publication of information materials. For training purposes and for the realization of workshops the Juná, Utria, and Septiembre Research Stations and infrastructure that belong to FNC will be available. With funds from the WB/3692-CO, the Ministry of the Environment will produce environmental education material and hold workshops related to protected areas, and the design and construction of an ecological trail in the UNP. Funds from the WB/3692-CO will also be used to train members of the Community Councils on communal land titling for afrocolombian and indigenous territories. The baseline cost of these activities is US\$339,040. The incremental GEF costs are estimated at US\$160,000 and will cover: (1) the training of local authorities in two municipalities and members of 26 communities in aspects related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the land use management; (2) extension programs and development of training material; (3) the establishment of two regional documentation centers and training in the use and management of the information; (4) study tour and knowledge-sharing events concerning aspects of the sustainable use of biodiversity within local, regional, national, and inter-ethnic groups; and (5) the monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the training process. The total cost of this component is US\$499,040 (GEF: US\$160,000).

3. Strengthening of local institutions: Through this component, opportunities will be opened for the participation of local stakeholders in the processes of defining policies and strategies for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity. FNC and the Ecological Zoning project will supply the necessary information for the development of agreed-upon strategies for the conservation of biodiversity. FNC will cover the financing of workshops and meetings. FNC will also supply, through the URP, technical assistance and baseline information (cartographic, ecological, and socioeconomic). Funds from the WB/3692-CO will be used for the financing of workshops and meetings, distribution of information, institutional strengthening of CODECHOCO, assistance to the Technical Commission of Law 70/1993, and to the contracting of consultants for the development of three legislative proposals related to the recognition of the rights of ethnic minorities. These activities have a baseline cost of US\$342,000. The GEF incremental costs amount to US\$160,000 and will be directed towards: (1) ensuring the participation of local stakeholders in the regional/national decision making processes concerning the conservation of biodiversity; (2) supporting the participation of community representatives and local administrations in decision making activities; (3) providing technical assistance for the ecological zoning of territories of the afrocolombian and indigenous communities and the identification of areas and species critical for sustainable use; and (4) inter-institutional coordination, especially with the Community Councils and the Regional Indigenous Council of the Pacific. This component has a total cost of US\$502,000 (GEF: US\$160,000).

4. Development of a regional network of protected areas (categories I-VI of the IUCN): This component will provide information to increase above the baseline the number of hectares under protection (currently 54,000 hectares or 15% of the total targeted area of the FNC/GEF project). FNC, with its own resources and through the URP, will provide technical assistance and cartographic information about ecosystems and socioeconomic variables. Funds from the WB/3692-CO will be designated for the financing of the development of the UNP management plan that will be developed jointly with the local communities that are settled in and around the park. These activities have a baseline cost of US\$244,520. The GEF incremental

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costs of US\$80,000 will support: (1) the financing of workshops and meetings concerning the development of proposals for new protected areas; (2) the generation of additional information for the creation of protected areas; (3) the development of preliminary management plans for the protected areas; and (4) the consolidation of agreements on a local, regional, and national scale which result in the inclusion of the created conservation areas in the Network of Private Reserves of Civil Society (NPRCS) and the Natural Protected Areas System (NPAS). The total cost of the component is US\$324,520 (GEF: US\$ 80,000).

**5. Support to local stakeholders in the design and implementation of sub-projects for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity:** Financing of subprojects will permit the piloting of activities for sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity. FNC, through the URP and resources from Friends of the Earth, will give support to specific programs on ecotourism and traditional fishing and farming methods. Funds from the WB/3692-CO will be designated for the financing of local initiatives in the interior of the UNP and its buffer zone. The baseline cost is estimated at US\$272,870. The GEF incremental cost is US\$150,000 and will be directed to (1) the technical assistance and support for nine local initiatives on sustainable use and conservation of hydrobiological (marine and freshwater) and forest resources, and (2) support for obtaining additional resources for the implementation of local initiatives in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The total cost of this component is US\$422,870 (GEF: US\$ 150,000).

**6. Project Management:** This component involves the administrative/management activities required for effective project implementation. In particular, it includes procurement management, disbursement reporting, financial and technical audits, internal evaluation, mid-term and final reviews. This component has a baseline cost of US\$137,630. The GEF incremental costs is US\$75,000. Total component cost is estimated at US\$212,630 (GEF: US\$75,000).

#### **E. Sustainability Analysis and Risk Assessment**

The proposed MSP would ensure the long-term sustainability of biodiversity conservation in the western slope of the Serranía del Baudó of the Colombian Pacific (including its coastal and marine ecosystems) by supporting the following activities and processes: (1) the strengthening of local organizations (executive and administrative capacities) and increasing their capability through training in technical and political aspects concerning conservation; (2) the definition of regional and local policies and strategies for the conservation of biodiversity for consistency with global and national policies; (3) the support of local initiatives which guarantee the technical and financial continuity of the efforts for sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.

With respect to the risk factors of the project, three risks have been identified:

1. Government commitment might not be reached in terms of increased participation of the afrocolombian and indigenous communities in the definition of conservation policies.
2. The communal land titling to the afrocolombian communities under Law 70/1993 might not materialize.
3. It is also possible that differences in opinion will exist concerning the priorities of the communities in terms of management of their territories.

The project is designed in a way to reduce the aforementioned risks and to ensure that they do not prevent its success and the achievement of global conservation benefits. Specific mitigating factors include:

- a. The project is emphasizing the need for consultation and dialogue between the local stakeholders and the GoC. In particular the project will assist the strengthening of local organizations and community leaders, in order to facilitate their participation in national decision making activities.
- b. Land titling to afrocolombian communities depends to a large extent on the organizational capability of these communities and the power and degree of participation in the Community Councils. The project is designed to build the capacity of the afrocolombian local communities in legal aspects related to their right to claim the land. At the same time, one of the main components of the WB/NRP is ensuring land titling to black communities.

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c. The project will assist in the preparation of the municipal land use plans. Development of the plans will be done in a participatory way, with the participation of all stakeholders (GoC, private sectors, civic society, local organization and local communities). Training in conflict resolution mechanisms will be provided, in order to achieve the highest level of consensus.

Furthermore, the interest shown by the GoC, community leaders and the local government administrations in the project during the consultation activities under Block A PDF indicates that the aforementioned risks are not high. It is also important to note that baseline activities, which will be developed through co-financing and that will be implemented to reinforce the project, will help to minimize the stated risks. Finally, the region where the project will be carried out does not present major security conflicts, which is an additional guarantee for the success of the project.

#### F. Stakeholder Involvement and Social Assessment

The project will be implemented with the participation of local organizations, resident populations of the area, and in a joint effort with NGOs and the Government institutions that are present or that bear responsibility for the region. To this end, a process of consultation in the region about the project was carried out with Block A PDF support. The proposal was presented to the municipal administrations of Bahía Solano and Nuquí as well as the Institute of Environmental Research for the Pacific-John von Neumann - Ministry of the Environment. The project was agreed upon by more than 35 representatives of 18 indigenous, afrocolombian, and mestizo communities in the region. Through the project, the local actors will not only be the direct beneficiaries of the planned training, but also, through its structure they will be the ones to define the policies and strategies of conservation of biodiversity for the area. Furthermore, the specific subprojects of local initiative will be carried out directly by members of the local communities and administrations.

Colombia's constitution requires that local and national development plans be discussed and agreed with the communities. The Government of Colombia fully supports this approach and constitutional directive. In this context, the project activity of institutional strengthening of local organizations will assist and improve the dialogue between the communities and the different levels of government for a more consensual development of national programs.

### III. INCREMENTAL COST ASSESSMENT

The total cost for the implementation of the medium-sized project is estimated at US\$2,962,350. The foreseen co-financing for implementation is estimated at US\$2,237,350, of which the FNC contribution is estimated at US\$1,560,550, local governments' and communities' contributions are estimated at US\$137,500, and other donor (Netherlands, WWF, Friends of the Earth, Ecofondo) contributions are estimated at US\$539,300. GEF will cover the foreseen incremental costs that are estimated at US\$725,000. The activities that GEF will support are (1) the gathering and systematization of information on ecological, social, economic, political, and institutional aspects concerning the region; (2) the training of local stakeholders in themes related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; (3) the strengthening of local institutions for the definition of local and regional policies, strategies, and projects for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity; (4) the development of a regional network of protected areas; (5) local projects for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity; and (6) incremental project management requirements.

A total of US\$25,000 was approved through the Block A PDF for: (1) the review of information related to: proposals, plans, initiatives, and activities of development in the western slope of the Serranía del Baudó; (2) the development of a project proposal for consultation with the local and regional stakeholders; (3) the development of a workshop to consult with representatives from 18 indigenous, black, and mestizo communities and meetings with municipal authorities from Nuquí and Bahía Solano; and, (4) the formulation and final joint planning of the project proposal.

GEF total financial support to the project is US\$750,000 (Block A + MSP).

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	BASELINE (US\$)			ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL (US\$)	INCREMENT (US\$)
	FNC	Other Donors	TOTAL	TOTAL	GEF
<b>Preparation (PDF)</b>					
<b>Block A</b>	9,000	12,000	21,000	46,000	25,000
<b>Implementation (I)</b>					
<b>1. Gathering and Systematization of information</b>	852,300	49,000	901,300	1,001,300	100,000
<b>2. Education and communication</b>	209,040	130,000	339,040	499,040	160,000
<b>3. Strengthening local institutions</b>	200,000	142,000	342,000	502,000	160,000
<b>4. Development of a network of protected areas</b>	38,250	206,270	244,520	324,520	80,000
<b>5. Support to sub-projects</b>	184,870	88,000	272,870	422,870	150,000
<b>6. Project management</b>	76,100	61,530	137,630	212,630	75,000
<b>TOTAL Implementation (I)</b>	1,560,560	676,800	2,237,360	2,962,360	725,000
<b>TOTAL (PDF+I)</b>					750,000

#### IV. BUDGET

Estimated breakdown of costs by expenditure categories is as follows:

Expenditure Categories (US \$)	GEF	FNC	Local Communities	Local Government	Other sources	Project total
Technical assistance:	250,000	245,470			118,840	614,310
Workshops:	110,000	209,040	30,000	30,000	70,000	449,040
Goods:	40,000	123,640	10,000	15,000	68,810	257,450
Works:	40,000	15,000			134,340	189,340
Subprojects:	150,000	56,090	20,000	20,000	48,000	294,090
Services:	40,000	800,000			30,000	870,000
Unallocated:	20,000	35,220			20,280	75,500
Operational costs:	75,000	76,100	6,000	6,500	49,030	212,630
Project total	725,000	1,560,560	66,000	71,500	539,300	2,962,360

#### V. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

##### Stakeholder identification

The local stakeholders who will be involved in the project are members of the communities that inhabit the western slope of the Serranía del Baudó, particularly the indigenous communities that live in reserves and are members of the Indigenous Regional Council, the Community Councils, and other afrocolombians of the region. Additionally, grass-roots ecological organizations will participate, such as the Ciudad Mutis Group, the Ecological Group of Nuquí, Group of Progressive Women of Coquí, Group of

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Progressive Women of El Valle, and the Progressive Association of El Valle - ASPROVAL. With respect to local, regional, and national government institutions the municipalities of Bahía Solano and Nuquí will be involved, as well as the Institute of Environmental Research for the Pacific-John von Neumann - Ministry of the Environment, the Regional Corporation - CODECHOCO -- and the National Parks System of the Ministry of the Environment and officials of the UNP. Finally, international NGOs such as WWF - Colombia, WWF - Switzerland, and Friends of the Earth - Spain will also participate.

### Stakeholder participation

A total of 26 local indigenous and afrocolombian communities are expected to participate in the project. Their participation will be as direct beneficiaries of the foreseen training activities. In accordance with their requests during the consultation phase (Block A PDF), the training activities will be carried out, when possible, directly in the communities in order to guarantee that the greatest number of persons will benefit. Members of the communities will participate as co-researchers in gathering information for the establishment of the center of information and documentation. With the participants and other community representatives, mechanisms will be defined for the systematization and documentation of information. Additionally, the gathering of information activities for defining biodiversity indicators and the later monitoring will be carried out with the participation of the local co-researchers. The participation of the community members in the decision making processes concerning local and regional programs for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity will be strengthened. During activities for the discussion and definition of the conservation strategies and policies, the participants will be able to use elements learned during training. Finally, the project will support local conservation initiatives or sub-projects that will be implemented directly by local stakeholders.

The participation of local government representatives will be through the municipal administrations. Within the Utría Regional Project (URP), FNC has been working directly with the mayors of the municipalities and agreements have been signed in support of developing land use management plans. Efforts of the FNC/GEF project will be directed towards this end and members of the municipalities will participate in the planned training activities. The definition of programs and strategies for conservation will be coordinated and developed with the support of the municipalities. With the Institute of Environmental Research for the Pacific - John von Neumann - exchange of information activities, which are necessary for the development of the set of indicators and the monitoring of biodiversity, will be coordinated. The Institute will also serve as advisor in the definition of concrete actions for conservation in the municipalities, afrocolombian territories, and indigenous reserves. With CODECHOCO efforts towards the definition of regional conservation strategies will be coordinated. CODECHOCO will also act as an advisory agency for the municipalities in the environmental planning processes, in the regulation of the uses of biodiversity and in the defense of natural and cultural patrimony. Finally, the project plans to work closely with the National Park System (NPS) of the Ministry of the Environment, particularly through UNP. In addition to the foreseen actions for the support of local conservation initiatives, together with the National Park System (NPS) efforts for the inclusion of the new protected areas in the NPAS and the NPRCS will be coordinated.

### Information dissemination

The distribution of information will be carried out through various mechanisms. Within the URP, FNC created the periodical "Voces de Monte, Río y Mar" which has a wide circulation in the region. Furthermore, distribution of material is foreseen during the training activities and after them. The results of the training, discussion, and consultation activities will be disseminated. This process will be further complemented by activities held in workshops and events of experience-sharing. Two centers of information and documentation will be created through which the local stakeholders will have direct and permanent access to all information generated by the project and by other conservation activities in the region (database). Finally a Webpage will be created with all the information related to the project.

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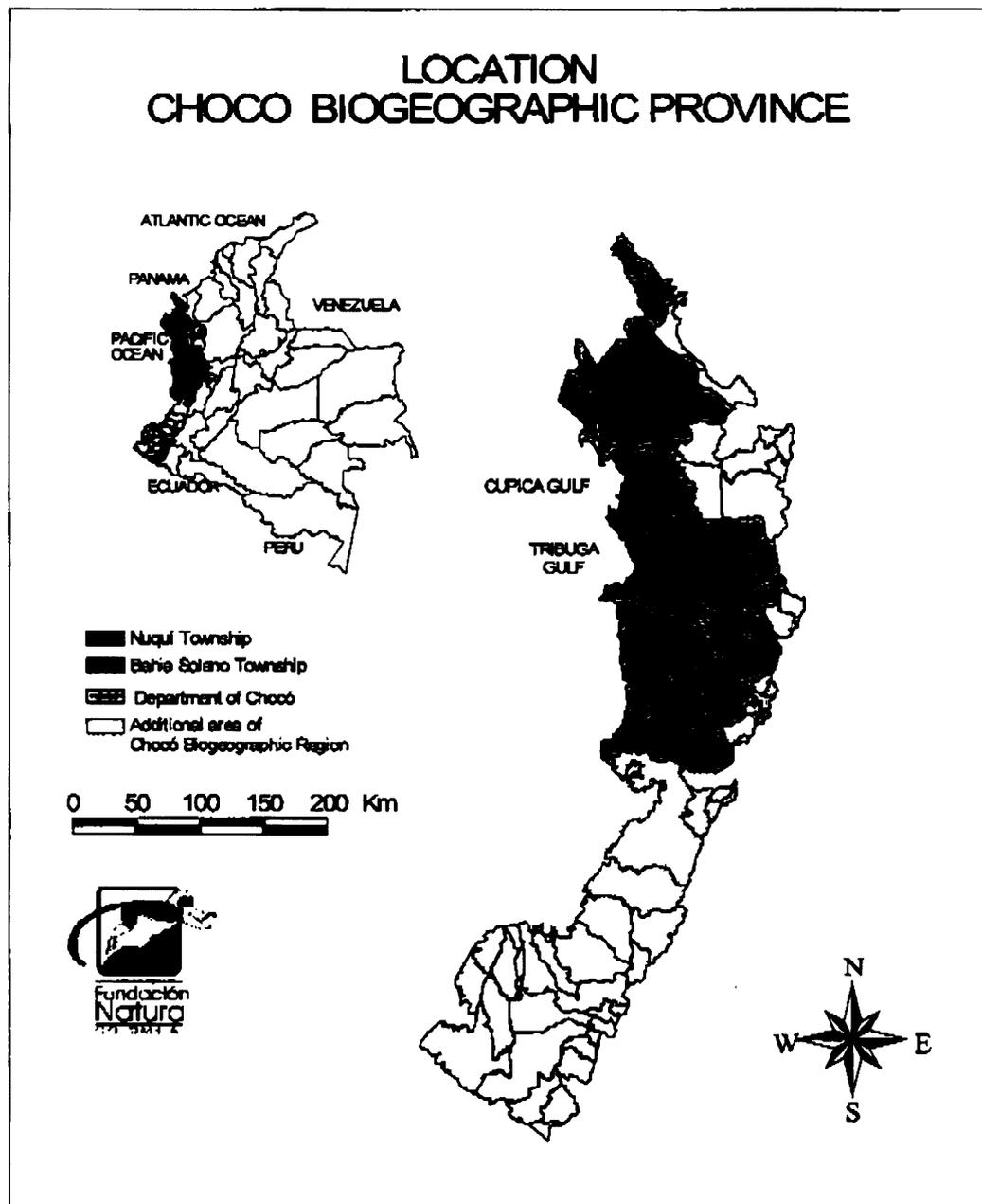
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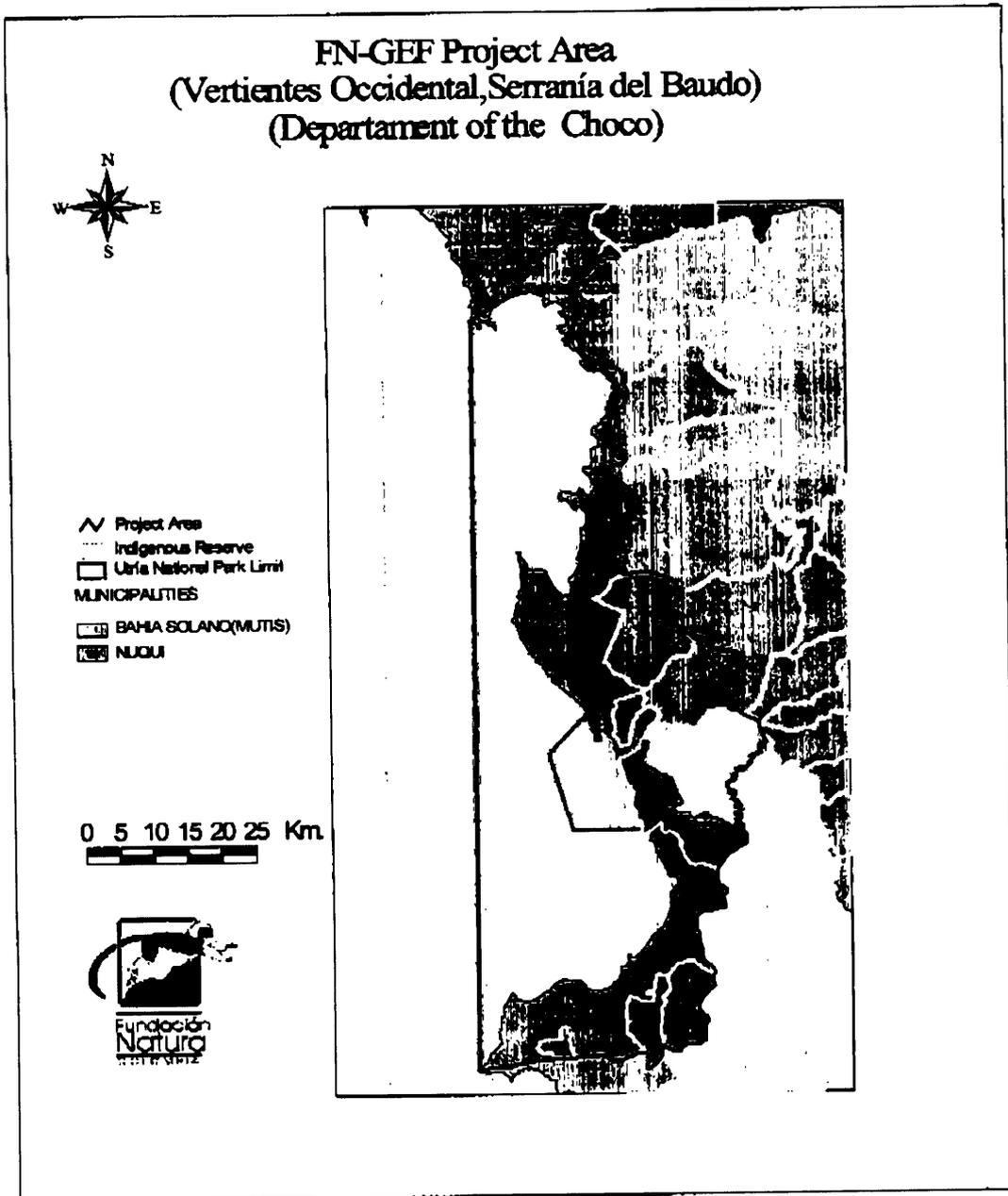
**VI. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Activities	Length (months)						
	0	6	12	18	24	30	36
1. Gathering and systematization of ecological and socioeconomic information.	●-----●						
2. Education and Communication.	●-----●						
3. Strengthening of local institutions.	●-----●						
4. Development of a regional network of protected areas (categories I-VI of the IUCN).	●-----●						
5. Support to local stakeholders in the design and implementation of sub-projects for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.	●-----●						
6. Project management.	●-----●						

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN**

Internal evaluation activities will be performed annually and in accordance with the institutional planning and evaluation activities carried out by FNC each year. Furthermore, detailed performance benchmarks are being developed to complement the overall project objectives, outcome, and activity indicators presented in the MSP summary sheets. These performance benchmarks will provide the basis for disbursement of GEF funds by the Bank during MSP implementation. Natura will report regularly to the Bank on project execution. Also technical as well as financial reports about the development of the implementation of the project will be distributed to donors. Record-keeping procedures will also be evaluated as part of the general financial audit of FNC and endorsed by a certified financial auditor. Finally, the set of indicators will permit the monitoring and evaluation of the status of the biodiversity in the project area.







Santa Fe de Bogotá, D.C., 13 de enero de 1999

Señora  
CHRISTINA KIMES  
East Asia, Latin American and Caribbean Regional Coordinator  
Global Environmental Coordinator Division  
The World Bank  
Washington, D.C.

Apreciada Señora ~~Kimes~~: *Tina*:

Con gran complacencia hemos recibido la noticia de que el proyecto propuesto por la Fundación Natura, "Concertación del uso múltiple y sostenible de la biodiversidad de la vertiente occidental de la Serranía del Baudó, en el Chocó biogeográfico, con las poblaciones y administraciones locales y regionales", está siendo estudiado por el Banco Mundial para su financiación durante el presente año.

Queremos reiterarle el interés del Ministerio en este proyecto y avalar igualmente a la Fundación Natura como entidad idónea para recibir los US\$725.000 provenientes del Banco.

Agradecemos su colaboración e interés con este proyecto y las demás iniciativas del Ministerio.

Atentamente,



JUAN MAYR MALDONADO  
Ministro del Medio Ambiente

*P.D. Happy New Year.*