

GEFSEC Project Tracking System Response Due Date: 12/29/98

Correspondence Description

Addressed to:Mr. Kenneth KingDate Received:12/18/98From:Rafael Asenjo

Correspondence Date: 12/15/98 Organization: UNDP

Log No. 98-565

Assigned To: M. Ramos

Status: Open

Type: Memorandum Topic: PDF A: Costa Rica - Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity in Coco's Island Conservation Area

Action Instructions

- □ For Bilateral meeting
- □ For information only. No action needed.
- □ Please handle/respond on behalf of Mr. Kenneth King and provide a copy.
- D 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

Information Copies Sent To:

K. Kumari, H. Acquay, W. Lusigi, M. Cruz, J. Taylor

Projects File Room Location:

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.



United Nations Development Programme GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Date: 15 December 1998

To:	Mr. Kenneth King Assistant CEO
Attention:	Program Coordination
From:	Rafael Asenjo GEF Executive Coordinator
	GEF Executive Coordinator
Subject:	Prescreening of PDF Block A: "Knowledge and use of biodiversity in
	Coco's Island Conservation Area"

Enclosed is a PDF Block A for Costa Rica entitled "Knowledge and use of biodiversity in Coco's Island Conservation Area" submitted to UNDP by the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE), the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) and Coco's Island Marine Conservation Area (ACMIC), for GEF financing under the medium-sized projects initiative. Please note that the project has been endorsed by the GEF National Operational Focal Point in Costa Rica.

In accordance with the operational guidance for the preparation and approval of medium-sized projects, we are seeking a review by the Secretariat as to the consistency of the PDF Block A with GEF eligibility criteria and the Operational Strategy.

We look forward to receiving your view on the PDF Block A's eligibility on or before 8 January 1999.

cc: Nick Remple, Regional GEF Coordinator

PDF REQUEST BLOCK A

the second s	
1. Project name: Knowledge and use of biodiversity in	2. FMAM implementing organism: United Nations
Coco's Island Conservation Area	Development Program (UNDP)
3. Country where the project will be implemented: Costa	4. Country's eligibility: Biological Diversity Convention,
Rica	ratified by the country on August 26, 1994
5. FMAM range of action: Biodiversity	6. Operational Program: Coastal, marine and freshwater
	ecosystems; forest ecosystems

212 906 6998

7. Project's connection with national priorities, action plans and programs:

- It is congruent with the guidelines established by Costa Rica's 1994-1998 National Development Plan, particularly with
 respect to the study and adequate assessment of natural resources and the modern management of the National
 System of Conservation Areas (SINAC).
- It responds to the objectives of Costa Rica's Environmental Policy Plan with respect to policies on conservation and management of natural resources, which proposes, among other things: consolidate the National System of Conservation Areas and promote the knowledge and non-destructive use of biodiversity.
- It responds to the objectives of the National Biodiversity Program.
- It helps achieve one of SINAC's institutional objectives, which seeks to consolidate protected wild areas in order to
 ensure the conservation of the country's biodiversity.

8. FMAM national focal operational center and approval date in the country:

FUNDECOOPERACION is the operational focal point, and it granted its endorsement on January 15, 1998

9. JUSTIFICATION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT:

Coco's Island Marine Conservation Area (ACMIC) is comprised of Coco's Island National Park, which is located in the Pacific Ocean, 500 km from the continent, and constituted by both a 2,400-ha terrestrial area and a 97,000-ha marine surface.

xtraordinary marine and terrestrial ecosystems contain a particular combination of geological, climatic and ecological processes that make it a great center for reproduction and distribution of species in the entire Eastern Pacific. It is the only emerged portion of Coco's Plate.

The 1992 National Blodiversity Study indicates that Coco's Island is one of the four regions with the highest endemism rates in the country. Endemic species represent 16 % of the total number of species in the Island. Among them are: palo de hierro, which covers approximately 80% of the Island; guarumo; two endemic orchid species; bromeliads; three moss species, and fungi; among the latter, a living fossil is of particular scientific interest: the *Psilotum hudum*. Its enormous biodiversity is well-recognized, considering that the number of identified species includes at least 118 mollusks, 250 fishes, 235 plants, 362 insects, 32 corals and 90 fungi. Moreover, these figures may increase since these are just estimated numbers.

Its semi-dense vegetation presents two associations: littoral, subdivided into swampy and mainland vegetation, and mountainous. It is the only island in the Eastern Pacific with a pristine cloud forest on its higher lands, in addition to the fauna and flora of the humid tropics.

It constitutes the first terrestrial point of the American Pacific to be reached by the North Equatorial Countercurrent, which transports masses of water and organisms from the other end of the Pacific to the American coasts, after traveling 5,000 km, one of the planet's greatest and deepest gaps. This means that the Island is located in a marine biological corridor between continents, being the first place reached by species and planktonic larvae that come from the Indo-Pacific. The Island's coral populations reveal the existing coral migration between continents, since the coral species found here are similar to the Hawaiian species, and it is from Coco's Island that these species are dispersed to other places, such as the Galapagos Islands and nearby coasts. This provides the Island with special conditions essential to the conservation of ecological processes of both tropical rain forest and marine ecosystems. The small Islands and islets around Coco's Island hold important nesting colonies for migratory bird species, such as the brown and red-footed boobies, frigate birds, the white guli and the brown swallow. It is also an important resting site for these species. One of the most relevant aspects within the marine component is the abundant population of sharks, especially hammerhead sharks, which constitutes a global attraction that has granted the Island the world's second place as a tourist attraction for scuba divers.

•ch extraordinary biological diversity, that makes Coco's Island a world-wide exceptional place, caused the Island to be clared a World Natural Heritage Site by UNESCO on December 4, 1997, and more recently, a Ramsar site as a wetland of international importance, in May 1998.

In spite of the importance of Coco's Island, particularly at the international level, thanks to the aforementioned aspects as well as SINAC's efforts to improve the Area's protection and management, there still are unfavorable conditions that may threaten the stability of ecosystems, species, habitats and genetic reservoir present in ACMIC.

From the socioeconomic perspective, Coco's Island is exposed to pressures from the fishing sector, but it is difficult to determine the accurate connection between the social conditions of coastal communities and their pressure on the Area's resources.

Because of its geographical location, the Island management is influenced by aspects beyond Costa Rican economic and social conditions, since ships as well as people from other countries other than Costa Rica are also allowed to visit the Island. Most vessels that come to the Island leave from Puntarenas and, once in a while, from Quepos, Playas del Coco and Golfito.

The current situation in those communities exhibits indicators below the national average; these communities have little participation in the national economy and low levels of employment, salaries and education, that cause the population to migrate in search for better employment opportunities and quit school at a very early stage. Such characteristics also cause social instability in addition to help understand why these economic agents are interested in the exploitation of the ACMIC resources. Moreover, most fishermen lack adequate tools to exploit marine resources efficiently.

Although at present there are no serious damages caused by recreational scuba diving, it is important to take adequate measures in case the number of visitors increases. Fishing resources seem to be abundant, but their total biomass could be limited, since it is concentrated in a small area of particular tourist interest.

Coral reefs have showed signs of recovery from the 1982-1983 El Niño event; however, it is still not possible to evaluate the effects of the 1997-1998 event.

A possible threat to some ecosystems is posed by the fauna introduced by seamen and adventurers that used to come to the Island. Of those species, the domestic pig has proven to be the worst, because it causes direct damages as a predator as well as indirect harm by disturbing habitats. Other exotic species that have a serious impact on the Island are rats, goats, deer, cats, in addition to plant species such as coffee, citrus, banana, mango, avocado, etc., which must be eradicated to the such as the prove the target of the sector of the sect

* rough well-known scientific methods. Although there is some knowledge of the Island's biological diversity, it is still not ugh to help us comprehend its dynamics and ecological processes and be able to increase and improve current management efforts.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- To increase knowledge of terrestrial and marine biodiversity in Coco's Island to establish the necessary scientific and technical foundations for its conservation and sustainable use.
- To increase awareness of coastal communities, visitors and tourists most involved in ACMIC, regarding the benefits derived from conserving and adequately using biological diversity.
- To establish better practices and methods of using ACMIC terrestrial and marine biodiversity components in a sustainable manner.
- To improve ACMIC management capacity in order to conserve and manage its biodiversity in a sustainable manner

10. Expected results:

As a complement to the country's efforts carried out in ACMIC, this project is expected to have the following results:

- More detailed and accurate information and knowledge of ACMIC terrestrial and, mostly, marine biodiversity, so as to improve protecting, management and conservation efforts in the Area, with the proper technical and scientific support.
- Additionally, biological education efforts in the coastal communities near ACMIC that may help them adopt favorable attitudes towards the use of biodiversity through the implementation of adequate methods to exploit ACMIC marine resources.

- Adequate policies and regulations particularly to foster sustainable ecotourism in the Island.
- Design and implementation of a system that may help monitor the main marine biodiversity components to facilitate the generation of knowledge and conservation of existing resources.

212 906 6998

- Better technical and administrative tools to help ACMIC improve its management capacity for the benefit of both national and international users.
- The Island's biodiversity information, knowledge and sustainable management experiences adequately systematized and available to be used and transferred by the national and international communities.

11. Activities intended to achieve the expected results:

- Carry out classification studies of the marine and terrestrial biodiversity in order to determine the condition of such resources through appropriate methods.
- Based on such studies and within the Limit of Acceptable Change, ACMIC management, protection and control terms and actions will be properly adapted.
- Implement an education, training and biological extension program in those coastal communities (Quepos, Golfito, Puntarenas) that profit more directly from ACMIC marine biodiversity components.
- Design and implement methods and practices of sustainable use and exploitation of marine biodiversity, mainly of ACMIC fishing resources.
- Analyze, design and reformulate guidelines, norms and rates with respect to the various uses permitted in ACMIC, particularly in connection with recreational tourism and responsible ecotourism.
- Determine and design methods that facilitate the application of criteria, indicators and measuring parameters, as well as the means to evaluate the situation of and threats to ACMIC marine biodiversity components.
- Develop interpretative methods and ecotourism practices that may increase visitation to ACMIC and thus help increase
 resources to strengthen the Area's financial sustainability.
- Register and systematize information about research projects and experiences on the use and management of biodiversity components, and make it available to local, national and international users in adequate formats.

12 Interested parties involved in the project

ermen organizations of Puntarenas, Quepos and Golfito

Coastal communities near ACMIC (Puntarenas, Quepos, Golfito and Playas del Coco) ACMIC staff

National and international scientists interested in ACMIC biodiversity

Elementary- and high-school students from communities that have an impact on ACMIC resources

Friends of Coco's Island Foundation (FAICO)

1. 化一根安静碱酶 部门上上 化对应可分积液 山

13. Activities financed by SFPP

- Elaborate the terms of reference and select, hire and direct the specialist in charge of compiling and analyzing the information generated by biodiversity research studies carried out in ACMIC; preparing a draft proposal of research needs and priorities to be examined by experts and relevant interested participants by means of a Focus Group technique, and elaborating a final proposal.
- Elaborate the terms of reference, and hire and supervise the specialist that will define a concrete objective approach to implement biodiversity education, training and dissemination efforts in ACMIC.
- Elaborate the terms of reference, and hire and supervise the specialist in charge of compiling information, and tabulating and analyzing the DRRP information, focusing particularly on uses of ACMIC marine resources.
- 4. Elaborate the terms of reference, and hire and supervise the specialist that will determine the boundaries of the area to undergo the Limit of Acceptable Change analysis; identify the target market segment (population) and zonation; define opportunities and alternatives of each defined zone; establish indicators and standard levels; and evaluate and recommend the best alternative(s) to be implemented in the Area management.

Elaborate the terms of reference and hire a person to be in charge of preparing and conducting a workshop report to define the actions that will be implemented under the project.

6. Coordinate PDF actions regarding elaboration of terms of reference and hiring of specialists as well as coordination and supervision of their actions and the preparation of a Project Brief.

14. Expected results and time

- 1. Study of research needs and priorities of biodiversity in ACMIC. 1.5 months/person
- 2. Design of an education, dissemination and extension strategy for ACMIC biodiversity. 1.5 months/person.
- 3. A participatory rapid rural appraisal of the socioeconomic conditions of coastal communities, including implementation of main utilization methods of ACMIC marine resources. 2 months/person
- 4. A study of the ACMIC Limit of Acceptable Change, focused mainly on marine resources. 4 months/person.
- 5. An advisory workshop with related communities to determine project actions. 5 days/person.
- 6. A Project Brief, including incremental costs. 4 months/person

15. Other possible donor entities and corresponding figures: MINAE, through SINAC, will contribute to the PDF implementation as follows:

Costs of professional work on the project planning, coordination, facilitation and supervision processes, as well as operational costs, for a total of approximately \$ 20,250 (for more details, see item 16).

Total budget and information of financial costs (including Block A donation)

	Donation Block A \$	SINAC \$
Activity 1	3,000	1,125
Activity 2	3,980	1,125
Activity 3	3,980	1,500
Activity 4	8,250	4,000
Activity 5	770	1,500
Activity 6	5,020	3,000
Operational costs		3,500
Transportation to th	e Island	4,500
Subtotal	25,000	20,250
TOTAL	45,25	0

System of Conservation Areas (SINAC), Coco's Island Marine Conservation Area (ACMIC)	18. Date of establishment, membership and director: MINAE, formerly Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mines (MIRENEM), was legally established in 1991. Being part of MINAE, SINAC is an organ of the Executive Branch and has its own legal capacity. SINAC's current director is Luis Rojas Bolaños.

	Donations		
implement processes aimed at achieving a sustainable			
 21. Activities/ recent programs, particularly those pertaining to FMAM: SINAC, among other things, seeks to conserve most of the country's biodiversity through actions aimed at: Saving representative samples of biodiversity through the establishment and management of Protected Wild Areas. Increasing knowledge of biological resources. 			

Identifying and promoting sustainable and equitable uses of biological diversity.

lat respect, its main achievements include:

For the first time ever, through a participatory process, policies for Costa Rican Protected Wild Areas were defined. This constitutes an action of great significance since it established the essential guidelines for the conservation of our protected wild areas. The document became official on August 24, 1997.

Similarly, policies regarding the promotion of sustainable uses of natural resources were identified, including guidelines for the promotion of responsible management of the country's wildlife and forest resources, particularly within areas of private domain.

On the legal aspect, one of the most important achievements has been the promulgation of the Forest Law, on April 16, 1996, that includes novel instruments of environmental policy such as payment of environmental services, which consists of compensating forest and plantation owners for the environmental benefit that their conservation efforts bring to society in general. In that sense, it is the first time that a national law recognizes that such type of ecosystems provides benefits and services that can be rewarded. Among the environmental services included in this law is biodiversity conservation.

This legal instrument grants the State the authority to prohibit exploitation of threatened or endangered forest species that may endanger other species. In accordance with this resolution, Decree N 25700-MINAE was issued to prohibit the exploitation of 18 forest species.

The Wildlife Conservation General Law was amended through Executive Decree N 26435-MINAE. Among the main changes are: transfer of the organization and competencies of the Wildlife General Bureau to SINAC and issuance of wildlife permits to the Conservation Areas, as well as an increase in the number of species with reduced or threatened populations and of species in danger of extinction.

The recently, the Biodiversity Law N 7788 was published on May 27, 1998. Its main objective is to promote biodiversity iservation and its sustainable uses as well as the fair distribution of benefits and derived costs.

212 906 6998

An effort worth mentioning has to do with the implementation of the GRUAS Project, which consists of a territorial-ordering proposal with biodiversity conservation ends. It suggests the territorial extension to be comprised within the protected wild areas as well as the modification of boundaries, changes or creation of new management categories and biological corridors, and also recommends actions to be carried out in order to implement the project.

For the first time, beginning August 1997, a monitoring system was implemented for the Protected Wild Areas based on a methodology developed by the Central American Regional Project PROARCA-CAPAS, which includes technical and scientific indicators that may provide timely information for an adequate management of the areas. Such system was first implemented as a pilot project in five wild areas of the Central Volcanic Range Conservation Area and, in January 1998, was extended to other wild areas in the country that have the necessary human resources for its implementation.

The country's international recognition as a model of biodiversity protection has made Costa Rica a natural destiny from the tourism point of view, a situation mainly associated with the protected wild areas. Thus, it is estimated that between 55% and 70% of foreign tourists that come to Costa Rica annually visit the country's national parks. This results in important benefits to biodiversity conservation; among them, an increased public awareness of the value of our biological richness and the generation of income for its protection and management. During the 1994 - 1997 period, 2.247.523 national and international tourists visited Costa Rica's protected wild areas.

The Coco's Island Marine Conservation Area, which comprises the Coco's Island National Park, was declared a World Natural Heritage Site by UNESCO in December 1997, mainly because this island presents an extraordinary biological diversity and is considered one of the four regions with the greatest endemism in the country (National Biodiversity Study, 1992).

In 1991, Costa Rica ratified the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, particularly with respect to habitats of ----uatic species, known as Ramsar. So far, our country has included in the Ramsar list seven sites of international portance, four of them over the 1994 - 1998 period: North East Caribbean Wetland, Gandoca-Manzanillo Wildlife Refugee, Terraba-Sierpe Wetland and, more recently, Coco's Island, in May 1998.

As a recognition of the country's wetland conservation efforts, in March 1996 at the Sixth Conference of the Parties of the RAMSAR Convention, Costa Rica was chosen to host the (COP-VII), which will be held in May 1999. This activity has been declared of public interest through Executive Decree N 26298-MINAE.

As a contracting party of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of wild flora and fauna (CITES), ratified by the country in 1974, the following actions were taken during the 1994 - 1997 period: designation of scientific authorities through Executive Decree N 24597-MIRENEM, three prohibition decrees for wild species as well as the promulgation of Decree N 25663-MINAE on *Ara ambigua* protection and *Dipteryx panamensis* regulations.

The Cooperative Agreement between INBio and MINAE was renewed in 1994. This agreement establishes mechanisms to carry out a biodiversity inventory in the Conservation Areas through research projects and the transfer to SINAC of a percentage of benefits derived from bioprospecting activities, as a contribution to the conservation of protected areas.

SINAC, together with INBio, carries out international cooperation projects, whose main purpose is to contribute to conserve most of the country's biodiversity through its adequate use. Among such projects are:

- National Biodiversity Strategy: This project is carried out with support from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The Biodiversity Advisory Commission (COABIO) provides counseling, INBio implements the strategy and SINAC is the national counterpart. Its three basic components are:
 - A Country Report on Costa Rica's efforts regarding the fulfillment of articles 6 and 8 of the Biodiversity Convention. The document has already been finished and the information is available through INTERNET;

- A redesigned National Biodiversity Study that includes an update of the study carried out in 1992 on the situation of ecosystems, species and genes, as well as the legal framework and related actions implemented in the country as part of the national biodiversity conservation efforts;
- The National Biodiversity Strategy, which seeks to establish the main guidelines and actions regarding biodiversity conservation to be implemented in a participatory manner within each Conservation Area. Based on such guidelines, a National Strategy will be developed with its corresponding Action Plan. This project should be finished by early 1999..
- Contribution to the Development of Knowledge and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Costa Rica: This project financed by the Norwegian Cooperation Agency (NORAD) seeks to help establish the country's institutional capacity to use biodiversity in a non-destructive manner. Among other aspects, it considers the identification and design of biodiversity and SINAC products oriented to achieving its sustainability, as well as inventory activities of four taxonomic groups Hymenoptera (ants, bees, wasps), Coleoptera (beetles), Fungi and Diptera (flies)-- in Osa, La Amistad-Pacific, La Amistad-Caribbean and Arenal-Tilaran Conservation Areas.
- Development of Knowledge and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Costa Rica: This project financed by the Government
 of Holland seeks to develop biodiversity knowledge of both taxonomic and ecological aspects, as well as to strengthen
 the capacity to apply and disseminate this knowledge in Osa, La Amistad-Pacific, La Amistad-Caribbean, Arenal-Tilaran
 and Tempisque Conservation Areas. It includes important infrastructure, training and dissemination components for
 nematodes, Lepidoptera, plants, mollusks and vertebrates.
- Development of Biodiversity Resources: This project financed by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), through the World Bank, seeks to develop an inventory of four taxonomic groups --Hymenoptera, Coleoptera, Diptera and Fungióin Osa, La Amistad-Pacific, La Amistad-Caribbean, Arenal-Tilaran and Tempisque Conservation Areas, based on the needs of different social sectors. It also seeks to identify biodiversity uses and applications, as well as to disseminate information.

Additionally, SINAC carries out the following biodiversity conservation project:

Biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in La Amistad-Pacific and Osa Conservation Areas. This project
attempts to consolidate an integrated model of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development activities in the
aforementioned Conservation Areas. It is also financed by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) through the UNDP.

요즘 지수는 아이가 다 여기 가지 않는 것을 다 가지 않는 것을 가지 않는 것이 같다.

22. Project identification number:

23. Implementing organism liaison officer: On behalf of UNDP-Costa Rica: Richard Barathe, Program Officer, and on behalf of UNDP-GEF: Nick Remple, GEF Regional Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean

24. Project connection with the implementing Organism program (or programs):

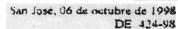
The project proposal "Knowledge and use of biodiversity in Coco's Island Conservation Area" falls within UNDP's mandate to promote a sustainable use of natural resources since it contributes to ensure protection of a unique and globally significant biodiversity. Furthermore, as stated in both the 1998-2001 Country Cooperation Framework and the Country Strategy Note, this project contributes to ensure participation of different stakeholders, such as coastal communities, in the process of conservation by addressing root causes of threats of loss of biodiversity.

Through the development of knowledge of the biodiversity, this initiative also contributes to ensure the adequacy of the design of conservation activities to be realized in Coco's Island and in future projects which is in connection with UNDP's efforts to promote replicability of its demonstrative projects.

Finally, by promoting coordination and building capacity among concerned stakeholders this project enhances UNDF's role as facilitator of development processes.

FUNDECOOPERACION

Para el Desurrollo Sostenible



Señor Hans D. Kurz Representante Residente Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Humano Sostenible S. O.

193 OCT 97 :+ 82:-1

Estimado señor:

Por este medio, me permito comunicarle que mediante el Acuerdo No. 5., Litersles C y D de la Sesión 09-98, celebrada el 1 de octubre de 1998, la Junia Administrativa de FUNDECOOPERACION accedió a sus solicitudes de fecha 27 de agosto y 10 de setiembre de 1998, para que se ratifique el carácter prioritario de las siguientes propuestas elaboradas en seguimiento de los perfiles que habían sido previamente aprobados por la Junta Administrativa:

212 906 6998

(GEF-07-98) "Building an alliance for the conservation of the green macaw and its habitat in Costa Rica's Northern zone",

(GEF-09-98)"Protection and sustainable management of the biodiversity in the Central Pacific of Costa Rica",

(GEF-10-98) "Conservation of Biodiversity in the Talamanca-Caribbean Biological Consider" y

(GEF-12-98) "Knowledge and use of Biodiversity in Coco Island Conservation Area",

Asimismo, se aprobó el cofinanciamiento solicitado del proyecto GEF-07-98 "Building an alliance for the conservation of the green macaw and its habitat in Costa Rica's Northern zone", por US\$15.000

Atentamente. SUPPORTOOMENCESS Pres of Decarrollo Sostenible arlos Harrers Amig DELEGADO EJECUTIVO

CC: Archivo

CHAIME

Tels: (506) 225-4507 / 224-3097 / 283-6327 + Fax: (506) 225-5900 + Apartado Postal 496-1002 Paseo Los Estudiantes San Jose, Costa * Dirección: 100 Ceste, 100 Súr de la Iglesia de Fátima Los Yoses. E-mail: Nundecop Geol.racsa.co.or



and the state of the state