



Global Environment Facility

MOHAMED T. EL-ASHRY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AND CHAIRMAN

June 22, 2000

Dear Council Member:

I am writing to notify you that we have today posted in the GEF's website at www.gefweb.org, a medium-sized targeted research proposal entitled *Ecuador: Albarradas in Coastal Ecuador: Rescuing Ancient Knowledge on Sustainable Use of Biodiversity*. The GEF will contribute \$750,000 towards a total cost of \$3.107 million.

This 3-year targeted research project will allow for the determination of the long-term use of the albarradas system and assessment of their value as a relict of biodiversity in southwestern Ecuador. The albarradas are man-made horseshoe-shaped earth embankments built to capture water from the run-off for use during the dry season and for replenishing groundwater wells. The recovery of this indigenous water management technology may provide some economic assets and incentives for native communities in the region. Research to be carried out by a multi-disciplinary team of specialists will promote the involvement of native farmers and other stakeholders in the recovery of traditional species present in albarradas archaeological context. It will also permit to identify the history of sustainable biodiversity associated with albarradas and may provide historical vision of the traditional sustainable management of biodiversity and the areas' social reality that will feed basic information to programs for environmental management and agricultural development.

The project proposal is being posted for your information. We would welcome any comments you may wish to provide by July 12, 2000, in accordance with the procedures approved by the Council.

If you do not have access to the Web, you may request the local field office of UNDP or the World Bank to down load the document for you. Alternatively, you may request a copy of the document from the Secretariat. If you make such a request, please confirm for us your current mailing address.

Sincerely,

M.T. Mohamed T. El-Ashry
Chief Executive Officer
and Chairman

cc: Alternates, Implementing Agencies, STAP

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 11, 2000

TO: Mr. Kenneth King, Assistant CEO,
GEF PROGRAM COORDINATION

FROM: Lars Vidaeus, GEF Executive Coordinator 

EXTENSION: 3-4188

SUBJECT: **GEF Medium-Sized Targeted Research Project (MSP - TR)**
ECUADOR: Albarradas in Coastal Ecuador: Rescuing ancient knowledge on sustainable use of biodiversity

1. Please find attached the Project Brief for the above-mentioned Medium-Sized Grant received from La Escuela Superior Politecnica del Litoral (ESPOL). The project has been endorsed by the GEF national operational focal point (see letter, also attached).
2. The proposed MSP concept was cleared by the GEF Targeted Research Committee in August 1998. At that time, the Committee recommended that the MSP Brief :
 - * describe the methodologies proposed for the research;
 - * better articulate the linkage between water management and conservation of agro-biodiversity;
 - * clarify the linkages between the MSP rationale and objectives; and
 - * define the replication potential of such water management technologies for conservation of agro-biodiversity.

The attached MSP Brief responds to this guidance. Please note that a systematic presentation of hypotheses (“assumptions”) to be tested and proposed methodologies may be found in the Outcomes section of the Brief (pages 16-18), rather than in a separate annex.

3. 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 May 2, 2000. As this is a Targeted Research proposal, we would appreciate the Secretariat staff taking any additional steps required to comply with the revised TR procedures.

4. We look forward to receiving the GEF Secretariat's guidance on the next processing steps for this Medium Size Project by May 16, 2000 (if not before). Thank you and best regards.

Copies:

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A. Djoghlaif, UNEP (Nairobi) (Fax: 254-2-624-041)

M. Gadgil, STAP (Fax: 91-80-334-1683 or 91-80-331-5428)

M. Griffith, STAP Secretariat (Nairobi) (fax 254-2-623-140)

H. Zedan, CBD Secretariat (Fax: 1514-288-6588)

: Messrs./Mmes. J. Parker (LCC4C); T. Lovejoy, G. Arcos, C. Sobrevila, C. Kimes, T. Bradley (LCSES); W. Vergara (LCSES/QAT); G. Castro, R. Khanna, D. Aryal (ENV); M. Montiel (LEGLA).

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