

1637



Kanta Kumari
08/19/2000 02:03 PM

Extn: 34269

GEF

Subject: Re: PDF A: Guatemala, Itza Maya Community Management

Dear Lars,

The GEF Secretariat would like to offer the following comments for the above PDF A. The project if developed further should demonstrate explicitly the global biodiversity significance of the sites. The scale of resources being requested seems to be on the high side in view of the fairly limited size of the reserve, which stands at 36 square kilometres. The incremental reasoning should be clearly articulated in the MSP brief.

With best regards

Kanta Kumari

To: Lars O. Vidæus
Rohit Khanna
Christine E. Kimes
cc: Gefbio
Gef Program Coordination/Service
Julie Anne Waller

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 3, 2000

TO: See Distribution Below

FROM: Lars Vidaeus, GEF Executive Coordinator



EXTENSION: 34188

SUBJECT: **GUATEMALA: Itzá Maya Community Management Medium Sized Project PDF Block A Request**

Please find attached a PDF Block A Request for the "GUATEMALA: Itzá Maya Community Management Medium Sized Project". The GEF national focal point endorsement letter is attached.

Although specific review criteria for pipeline entry have not yet been agreed for MSPs, we believe this proposal is consistent with general concept eligibility guidance, as noted below:

- Country Drivenness: please see Block 7 which provides this information.
- Program Designation & Conformity: please see Blocks 6 and 9.
- Project Design: please see Blocks 11 (Planned activities) and 10 (Expected Outcomes).
- Sustainability: the factors that will contribute to sustainability include indigenous community commitment, strengthening of indigenous capacity for information exchange and replication, and support for development of alternative land use practices and biodiversity-friendly livelihoods with the potential for financial sustainability (see Blocks 9 and 10).
- Replicability: is discussed in Block 9 (Rationale and Objectives).
- Stakeholder Involvement: please see Block 12.
- Monitoring & Evaluation: M&E plan will be developed during Block A preparation.
- Financing Plan: the incremental cost framework which will be applied to this project is presented in Block 11; specific project costs have not yet been defined, but will be developed during the Block A preparation process.
- Core Commitments and Linkages: please see Block 29.
- Consultation, Coordination and Collaboration between IAs: Please see Block 29 (also Block 7 provides an overview on other government/donor initiatives linked to the proposed MSP).

We would appreciate your comments by August 10, 2000. Thank you and best regards.

Distribution:

R. Asenjo, UNDP (New York) (Fax: 212-906-6998)
A. Djoghlaf, UNEP (Nairobi) (Fax: 9-011-254-2-520-825)
K. Elliot, UNEP (Washington) (Fax: 202-331-4225)

cc: Messrs./Mmes

Redwood, Lovejoy, Davis, Kimes, Berelowitz (LCSES)
Cackler (LCC2), Martinez (RUTA), Pastor (LEGLA)
GEF Program Coordination (GEF), Castro, Aryal, Khanna (ENV)

ENVGC ISC files
IRIS4

misaac



Christine E. Kimes
08/03/2000 06:55 PM

Subject: A new submission from the World Bank.
Project Title: Itzá Maya Community Management
Type: PDF A - Request for Comments

Please find below the indicated submission(s) for your information and/or action.

Date: 08/03/2000
Name: Christine E. Kimes
Region: LCR
Country: Guatemala
Project Title: Itzá Maya Community Management
Focal Area: Biodiversity
Type: PDF A - Request for Comments

Please find attached a PDF Block A request for the above-mentioned Medium Sized Project: Guatemala - Itzá Maya Community Management. The cover memo from the WB GEF Executive Coordinator and the letter of endorsement from the national GEF focal point are also attached. We look forward to your comments by August 10, 2000. Best regards.



Bio-Itza BlockA.doc



Endorsement Letter Bio-Itza.d



Bio-Itza memo.doc

CC: ahmed.djoghla@unep.org; daryal@worldbank.org; Envgec Isc Files/Service/World Bank; FStephens@worldbank.org; htowsey@worldbank.org; gcoordination@worldbank.org; Gcastro@worldbank.org; kristinelliott@hotmail.com; KMackinnon@worldbank.org; madhav@ces.iisc.ernet.in; margaret.gichui@unep.org; mark.griffith@unep.org; rafael.asenjo@undp.org; rkhanna2@worldbank.org; yibin.xiang@biodiv.org; kberelowitz@worldbank.org; lcses_iris4@worldbank.org

To: Gcoordination@Worldbank.Org

Block A PDF

PART I – ELIGIBILITY	
1.- Project name: Itzá Maya Community Management	2.- GEF Implementing Agency: World Bank
3.- Country in which the project is being implemented: Guatemala	4.- Country eligibility: Signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity, December 7, 1995.
5.- GEF focal area: Biodiversity	6.- Operational Program/Short-term measure: Forest ecosystems (Operational programs # 3)
7.- Project linkage to national priorities, action plans, and programs:	
<p><u>Regional Plan:</u></p> <p>The Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC) is a comprehensive effort by participating countries to link natural habitats from Mexico to Colombia. In Central America, the CCAD (Central American Council on Environment and Development) leads the effort, supported by the GEF, World Bank, UNDP, GTZ and many other national and international organizations. GEF projects can support regional and national initiatives to establish biologically and socio-culturally sustainable MBC and community-managed natural areas and cultural heritage sites. During the preparation of the Guatemalan section of the MBC, the Petén and the Maya Forest Corridor within it were found to be of the highest national and regional importance for biodiversity conservation.</p>	
<p><u>National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan:</u></p> <p>Preparation of the Action Plan, financed by an enabling activity grant of the GEF and administered through UNDP, is expected to be completed in 2000. The National Protected Areas Council (CONAP) of Guatemala operates under a strategy that lists the Petén as the most important of five geographic foci for biodiversity conservation in Guatemala. This priority ranking is expected to be confirmed in the current National Strategy/Action Plan exercise. CONAP recognizes the critical importance of community participation and has recognized the Bio-Itzá municipality reserve of San José, Petén.</p>	
<p><u>National Programs:</u></p> <p>This proposed initiative complements a number of conservation-related initiatives underway or planned by other institutions within the greater Petén, the most relevant of which are listed below:</p>	
<p><u>Mayan Biosphere Reserve Project (MBRP):</u> In 1991, USAID/Guatemala initiated a multi-year project designed to protect and manage the Mayan Biosphere Reserve (MBR) by strengthening CONAP, local NGOs, municipalities, communities and other MBR co-managers. Conservation International (CI) currently participates in this project, together with CARE, CATIE, the Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Rodale Institute/Centro Maya, and other NGO implementers. The proposed project would complement this initiative by protecting the southern entrance to the El Zotz Biotope, a part of the MBR, which is otherwise protected by existing initiatives only on the north, east and west sides.</p>	
<p><u>US Man and Biosphere Program/Tropical Ecosystems Directorate:</u> The Maya Tropical Forest covers portions of Mexico, Belize and Guatemala. This program is designed to improve coordination among the three countries to ensure consistent management of the greater Maya Tropical Forest. The three year project includes policy, mapping, and monitoring and evaluation. Several years ago, MAP also sponsored meetings among the Yucatec, Lacandón and Itzá Maya in recognition of their knowledge of and contribution to the conservation of biodiversity in the Maya Tropical Forest.</p>	
<p><u>Proselva:</u> In 1995, the Government of Guatemala established a set of protected areas in the southern Petén. Proselva, financed by the German government, seeks to strengthen the management and protection of these areas by encouraging greater community participation, providing training and technical assistance for CONAP, and supporting improved land titling in buffer zones. Activities supported by this project draw heavily on the Petén Integrated Development Plan (PDI) prepared by SEGEPLAN with German government financing between 1990 and 1992.</p>	

Sustainable Development Program for Petén: In late 1996, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved financing for the Petén's Sustainable Development Program. This program seeks to legalize land tenure, restore archaeological sites, promote ecotourism, and implement pilot projects in sustainable agriculture and forestry. Project activities will be located in buffer zones of the MBR and protected areas in southern Petén. The IDB project complements the Proselva project and draws heavily on priorities laid out in the PDI.

Frontera Agrícola Program: Funded by the European Union, this project is in its initial stages. The project addresses the problems confronting agricultural communities along the road connecting central Petén with Belize.

Land Administration Project: The World Bank-supported Land Administration Project provides funding for land demarcation and legal technical assistance and training for community management plans and complementary studies, to allow local communities to directly manage municipal lands.

Laguna del Tigre National Park: Supported by the World Bank/GEF program, this project aims to conserve the biodiversity and natural habitats of Laguna del Tigre National Park and Biotope by helping government, NGOs, communities and other actors improve their management of Laguna del Tigre and of the community management units within their boundaries. The proposed Itza Community Management project would complement these efforts by protecting the El Zotz Biotope to the south.

8.- GEF national operational focal point and date of country endorsement:

This proposal is endorsed by the national focal point, through the director of the National Commission on the Environment (CONAMA).

Endorsed: February 29, 2000

9.- Project rationale and objectives:

Project rationale:

Since 1997 the government has increased its commitment to conservation of protected parks and has placed over 33 percent of the Petén under park protection. However, areas not under protection have been subject to increased land use pressure. Encroachment on municipal lands has increased and there are severe threats to remaining forests and woodlots lying outside protected areas. Despite the designation of protected parks, uncontrolled colonization threatens their viability. As resources outside protected parks are eroded, farmers tend to invade parks. The colonization is a function of rapid demographic increase in the Petén, combined with easy access to most park land through poorly guarded roads and continued trail and road construction as well as a lack of sustainable viable economic alternatives. Unless steps are taken to alleviate the negative situation outside the parks, the threat of future invasions to parks and municipal lands remain. Without local-level support for conservation, nothing will work in the long run. In order to address this reality, the government is seeking to develop co-management arrangements under which local NGOs, municipalities, communities and other local entities will play a significant role in park and resource management.

The proposed project would promote the management and protection of the Bio-Itzá Reserve in the municipality of San José, Petén, Guatemala. The Bio-Itzá reserve would combine conservation with sustainable natural resource use in buffer zones, as well as serve as a model for other municipalities and communities in the Petén interested in replicating the successes of the Bio-Itzá reserve. Already other communities look towards the Itzá for how to manage their forests sustainably. The Q'eqchi' Maya, who regard the Itzá as "elder brothers" (because the Itzá have a longer history in the Petén than they), have visited the reserve for instruction on how to manage their forests and natural resources sustainably.

The San José municipal corporation has signed a forty-year renewable agreement with the Bio-Itzá Association (BIA)—a legally recognized group with a "legal personality" (*personería jurídica*)—to manage 36 square kilometers of forest within the municipal commons. BIA membership is made up of 66 native Itzá households. Work has already begun in the reserve, and the Itzá, with intermittent assistance from various NGOs, have built rudimentary tourist facilities in the Itzá Reserve. Forest management activities in the Bio-Itzá Reserve also serve to protect the southern entrance to the El Zotz Biotope, part of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, to which the Itzá are committed to safeguarding as part of their conservation efforts.

Conservation biologists, agronomists, NGO development workers, scientists (archaeologists, foresters, agronomists and low-impact tourism specialists) being trained at CUDEP (a branch of the national university granting bachelor degrees in the Petén), government specialists and local *campesino* groups would work on managing the reserve. This coalition of participating parties would then work on developing programs for transferring this knowledge to other communities and municipalities. Not only would the Bio-Itzá Reserve provide a location for on-going demonstrations of forest management and conservation, it would also provide a space for *campesino-to-campesino* communication. The program would provide a mechanism for utilizing indigenous knowledge for conservation and research as well as an appropriate location for monitoring and evaluating program results. Finally, the government is seeking to develop co-management arrangements with local NGOs, municipalities, communities and other entities to protect, manage and improve natural and cultural resources. The Bio-Itzá Association can provide a model of co-management. CONAMA, CONAP and other government organizations and NGOs consider the next three or four years to be critical, if the Maya Biosphere Reserve is to endure under proper management. Inevitably, this implies reducing pressure on farmers currently living outside the MBR so that they will not invade the MBR. The Bio-Itzá project would help improve adaptive strategies used by farmers in buffer zones providing economic sustenance through sustainable methods as well as reducing pressure to invade protected areas.

The studies funded by the PDF grant will enable the Bio-Itzá reserve to transfer methodologies and practices for conservation to other communities to use and manage forests under sound management planning including for commercial use. The proposed GEF MSP would complement the activities in various ways, including funding to establish the Bio-Itzá reserve, which would serve as a pilot for other reserves connected to the project, helping to form a community biological corridor in the Petén.

Educational programming developed in the project would be used to transfer these practices to farmers in other communities and municipalities, helping to replace decreasing public sector extension work with small and medium scale farmers. The Bio-Itzá Association and Reserve could become a nexus between various specialists and sectors working in conservation helping to provide programs to offset decreasing public sector extension work with small and medium scale farmers.

Project goals and objectives:

The fundamental objectives of the proposed medium size project are to protect the biodiversity of the Bio-Itzá Reserve (which implies protecting Itzá cultural traditions, for the two are linked) and to provide a community-outreach program at the Reserve. Specific project goals would be to:

- a) Enhance Itzá capacity to manage and conserve their reserve, and strengthen capacity for on-site low-impact tourism;
- b) Establish a farmer-to-farmer training program incorporating sustainable farming and land use practices with a demonstration and extension program that spreads out from installations in the Bio-Itzá Reserve;
- c) Establish an indigenous-knowledge and scientific base for more effective land and resource management over the long term for Petén; and
- d) Build a foundation for long-term financial sustainability.

10.- Expected outcomes:

The project will be implemented over a five year period, ending in the year 2005. At the end of the project, the following results are expected:

1. Bio-Itzá Association has maintained forest cover and biodiversity as well as promoted and implemented sustainable agriculture and forest practices in the Reserve and has self-sufficient capacity to generate funding for biodiversity conservation and other activities.
2. Strengthened capacity of community-based organizations in the Petén, including Q'eqchi' Maya organizations, to sustainably manage biodiversity and generate income from similar reserves in their respective municipalities.
3. Strengthened relations between community-based organizations, indigenous organizations, municipal

corporations, government institutions and NGOs with reference to management planning, development of small-business plans compatible with biodiversity and cultural conservation.

4. Improved communication and use of indigenous knowledge for integrated sustainable use of biodiversity.
5. Improved welfare of families in the Petén as a result of biodiversity friendly activities.

11.- Planned activities to achieve outcomes:

A. Promotion and Participation - US\$175,000

- a) Promote community conservation areas in each community, including a process of participatory analysis in each of the municipalities and major villages (aldeas) in the Petén.
- b) Develop a communications program in Spanish and relevant Mayan languages (Itzá, Mopan and Q'eqchi) for disseminating the success of the reserve.
- c) Promote an exchange of experiences in innovative community protected areas conservation and technology for biodiversity management, and develop conservation-based crop production systems (including tree crops that have benign impacts on soils), and support design and implementation of respective training modules, including multi-lingual environmental educational programs.
- d) Establish model projects in San José and Sayaxché for training and extension.
- e) Establish a central information center to collect, analyze and distribute scientific and indigenous knowledge about conservation and alternative income strategies compatible with the natural environment.

B. Conservation and Management Activities - US\$350,000

- f) Conduct bio-assessment of reserve. Develop community biodiversity criteria and bylaws (rules) for community demarcation and regulation of protected areas, beginning with the Bio-Itzá Reserve and extending to other communities.
- g) Develop a biodiversity- and conservation-friendly eco-tourism strategy.
- h) Develop conservation-friendly eco-tourism activities and infrastructure for visitors centers and information centers.
- i) Carry out management activities based on a set of sustainable standards for community protected areas and management, including monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

C. Institution Building - US\$200,000

- j) Strengthen local community organizations, including indigenous Maya groups, NGOs and government representatives to coordinate community reserves.
- k) Promote inter-institutional and cross-community coordination, cooperation and collaboration with respect to promoting and building a broad base of popular support (constituency for) regional conservation programs, such as biological corridors and sustainable management of protected areas in the Petén.

Incremental Cost Justification:

In the absence of GEF support, the indigenous community of San José and other local groups would not be able to sustain their initial efforts at community self-regulation of local reserves, woodlots and other areas. Attempts to establish cross-community cooperation would not have any support. In addition, absence of GEF support will be a lost opportunity to build a constituency for other conservation activities in the region. Thus, the alternative to GEF support will be progressive weakening of locally initiated attempts to establish local community biodiverse forest reserves.

Conversely, the proposed GEF support would make possible activities that will (i) contribute to greater awareness of the

benefits of biodiversity conservation on the part of participating communities; (ii) advance the definition of community reserves with a legal status based on customary indigenous rules as well as national law in Guatemala; (iii) foster networks across indigenous and non-indigenous communities with respect to conservation and thereby provide a basis for other types of cross-community and cross-ethnic constructive activities; (iv) create a committed constituency in favor of regional conservation activities on the part of the government and thereby strengthen the legitimacy of these efforts; (v) improve the economic welfare of participating communities; and (vi) complement other internationally and nationally-funded conservation activities in the region.

12- Stakeholders involved in project:

The target groups under the proposed project are the Itzá Maya of San José and other indigenous groups (Mopán, Q'eqchi') and local-level groups in the department of Petén. They are organized in several groups not currently coordinated with one another:

- Asociación Bio-Itzá
- **Sayaxché forestry group** (several villages, working with SARN-Sección de Agricultura y Recursos Naturales)
- Mopán Language Association of San Luis
- Centro de Atención Integral Maya Q'eqchi'
- Oxlaju Tzuultaq'a Maya Q'eqchi', La Libertad
- Consejo Indígena Q'eqchi' del Petén
- Participating Comités Pro Mejoramiento (village committees)

- Government of Guatemala:
- Municipal governments of Petén
- **National Commission on the Environment (CONAMA)**
- National Council for Protected Areas (CONAP)
- National Guatemala Tourism Institute (INGUAT).
- Institute of Anthropology and History (IDEAH)

- Environmental NGOs:
- **Canankax - Asociación Guatemalteca para la Conservación** (regional citizen and scientists' group)
- **Fundación Naturaleza Para la Vida-NPV** (regional citizen and scientists' group)
- Propetén/Conservation International
- The Nature Conservancy

PART II – INFORMATION ON BLOCK A PDF ACTIVITIES.

13- Activities to be financed by the PDF:

- a) Action 1. Social Assessment: To evaluate potential impact of the project, identify main stakeholders in project area, and hold consultation workshops at the regional level with both indigenous groups and communities, grassroots organizations and NGOs.
- b) Action 2. Assessment of Management Options: Survey and evaluation of current community development resource use, customary indigenous conservation practices, and outreach and education activities in participating communities in the project area.
- c) Action 3. Project Design: Synthesis of Actions 1 and 2 to formulate a project proposal for submission to the GEF for a medium-size grant.

14.- Expected outputs and completion dates :

- a) Result 1. Participatory action plan for indigenous communities and grassroots organizations, identification of key social, economic and legal issues to be addressed by the project (August 31, 2000).
- b) Result 2. Identification of communities (villages, municipalities) with forested areas that wish to participate in adopting practices used in the Bio-Itzá reserve (September 29, 2000).
- c) Result 3. Identification of appropriate and locally-tested administrative, community management, and financing options that can be used, with modifications as needed, to create and sustain community-managed forest reserves (October 31, 2000).
- d) Result 4. Result and final output: GEF Mid-sized Project Brief (December 15, 2000).

15.- Other possible contributors/donors and amounts:

World Wildlife Fund	\$1,500
Conservation International	\$1,500
Indigenous communities	\$1,000
Grassroots organizations	\$1,000

Total estimated \$5,000

16.- Total budget and information on how cost will be met (including the Block A grant):

Total Budget	GEF BLOCK A	WWF Communities	CI	Indigenous groups	Grassroots Organizations	TOTAL
Action 1: Baseline Information	10,000	500	500	250	250	
Actions 2 and 3: Participatory analysis/annual operational plan	14,000	1,000	500	500	500	
Action 4: General Coordination for final output (result)	6,000	---	500	250	250	
	25,000	1,500	1,500	1,000	1,000	\$30,000

PART III (a)- INFORMATION ON THE EXECUTING AGENCY

<p>17.- Name: Asociación Bio-Itzá (de San José)</p>	<p>18.- Date of establishment, membership, and leadership: Asociación Bio-Itzá Establishment: 1992; Granted legal status: 1997-1998 President: don Reginaldo Chayax Huex The Asociación Bio-Itzá has six forest rangers plus 66 participating Itzá member families</p>
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<p>19.- Mandate/terms of reference: Asociación Bio-Itzá: established in 1992, the Bio-Itzá gained its <i>personería jurídica</i> in 1997-1998; charged with management, protection and sustainable use of a 36 square kilometer natural forest reserve in the <u>ejido</u> of the municipality of San José; has a 40-year, rent-free renewable lease to the reserve.</p>	<p>20.-Sources of revenue: a) The Asociación Bio-Itzá's sources of revenue have been variable, with support coming from various NGOs, including Propetén/CI and the Ecological Fund of Boston. The group will now generate its own funding by promoting eco-tourism, working with traditional bee hive systems, and opening a new (summer 1998) Spanish-Itzá language school, designed for tourists and other visitors.</p>
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21.- Recent activities/programs, in particular those relevant to the GEF:
Asociación Bio-Itzá protects its Reserve, most recently from the El Niño-generated fires that damaged forests throughout Petén in 1998; the Asociación has reached a model local-level agreement with a Q'eqchi' agricultural community near the Reserve so that both sides gain. The Itzá also manage environmentally-friendly fruit tree orchards and bee hives at the Reserve.

PART III (b)– INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED Block A Grant ADMINISTRATOR

22.- Name: Conservation International/Guatemala (CI/Guatemala), known locally under the name “ProPetén”.	23.- Date of establishment, membership, and leadership: Established: 1992 Leadership: Lic. Carlos Soza Manzanero
24.- Mandate/terms of reference: CI/Guatemala-ProPetén was established in 1992 and is registered as a not-for-profit environmental organization under the laws of Guatemala. CI/Guatemala-ProPetén maintains two offices, one in Guatemala City and the other in Flores, the capital of Petén.	25.-Sources of revenue: CI/Guatemala-ProPetén’s funding comes from USAID, other bilateral or multilateral organizations, foundations, corporations, individuals and unrestricted CI sources.

26.- Recent activities/programs, in particular those relevant to the GEF:
CI/Guatemala-ProPetén focuses its activities on the protection and management of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, and is currently the executing agency for the GEF Laguna del Tigre MSP. CI/Guatemala-ProPetén works in coordination with the government of Guatemala, local municipalities, and local community organizations. As part of this partnership effort, CI/Guatemala-ProPetén is willing to serve as financial agent for administering Block A preparation funds, given the incipient state of Bio-Itza’s financial management systems. Whether CI/Guatemala-ProPetén and Bio-Itza would continue with this arrangement under the proposed MSP would be examined during Block A preparation and clarified in the MSP Brief.

PART IV – INFORMATION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE INFORMATION AGENCY

27.- Project identification number: P070677

28.- Implementing Agency contact persons:
Christine Kimes, GEF Regional Coordinator
Phone: (202) 473-3689
Email: CKimes@worldbank.org
Juan Martinez, Task Manager
Phone: (506) 255-4011 x 229 (Costa Rica)
Email: JMartinez2@worldbank.org

29.- Project linkage to Implementing Agency program:

Linkage to World Bank Program:
The World Bank’s Country Assistance Strategy (June 1998) identifies natural resource management as a programmatic focus for World Bank assistance. This focus has been reinforced by the selection of Guatemala in 1997 as a program focus for World Bank rural development assistance, due to the central importance of natural resource management to poverty alleviation and development efforts in the country. The proposed GEF medium-size Bio-Itzá project was identified during the design phase of the proposed Guatemala Land Administration Project, which aims to stabilize land tenure in the Department and promote indigenous rights and cultural conservation under the Peace Accords of December 1996. By promoting poverty alleviation in environmentally sound ways, the project will also address two root causes (poverty, environmentally unsound activities) threatening the integrity of the Maya Biosphere Reserve.

Linkage to World Bank/GEF Program:
Laguna del Tigre National Park: The proposed project complements the WB/GEF medium-size Laguna del Tigre National Park project, which aims to conserve the biodiversity and natural habitats of Laguna del Tigre National Park and Biotope by helping government, NGOs, communities and other actors improve their management of Laguna del Tigre and of the community management units within their boundaries. The proposed Itza Community Management project would work outside of the national protected areas system and focus on buffer zones of the MBR, helping to alleviate pressure on the core and multiple use zones targeted by other initiatives.

Western Altiplano Integrated Natural Resource Management Project: This proposed WB/GEF project aims to increase local capacity and opportunities for sustainable and equitable economic growth and conservation of critical biodiversity in the Western Altiplano. This initiative would promote the rational use and protection of productive natural resources in priority watersheds by increasing the capacity of local and regional institutions, increasing access to income and employment-generating activities, conserving biodiversity while allowing sustainable use activities, and establishing institutional and policy arrangements for capturing the value of environmental services.

Linkage to Other GEF Implementing Agencies Programs:

Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC): The MBC program is coordinated by CCAD and comprises a regional project as well as individual national projects supported by the GEF, World Bank, UNDP, UNEP and numerous bilateral donors. The combined results of these different initiatives are expected to include establishment and maintenance of a regional biological corridor stretching from southern Mexico to Colombia, which will consist of a mosaic of productive and protected landscapes in which development activities are compatible with the conservation of the Corridor's unique biodiversity. The proposed MSP would contribute to the objectives of this larger MBC corridor program by promoting biodiversity conservation in community lands outside of national protected areas.

Integrated Biodiversity Protection in the Sarstun-Motagua Region: This UNDP/GEF supported project protects a wide array of threatened ecosystems containing globally important biodiversity through an integrated program for resources conservation and sustainable use in the Sarstun-Motagua region, focusing on the management of nine protected areas. Project is based on premise that programs for biological conservation must include the promotion of sustainable economic uses of biological resources by communities living in and around the protected areas.

APR. 3. 2000 2:20PM

NO. 2899 P. 2

Guatemala, Guatemala a 29 de Febrero del 2000

Sra.
Donna Dowsett-Coirolo
Directora para Centro America del Banco Mundial
Washington D.C.

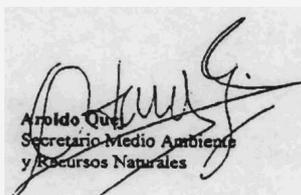
Hacemos referencia al Proyecto "Itza-Maya Community Management Community Conservation of Biodiversity", apoyado con recursos del Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial (GEF), a través del Banco Mundial como Agencia Instrumentadora.

Sobre el particular, a través del presente, me permito informar a usted que el proyecto de referencia cuenta con el apoyo tanto de esta Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, así como el Punto Focal del GEF previsto en la Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente (CONAMA), por lo que solicito atentamente que por su amable conducto, se inicien los trámites correspondientes ante el GEF con el objeto de contar con apoyo para el mencionado proyecto, y específicamente para el financiamiento del Bloque A.

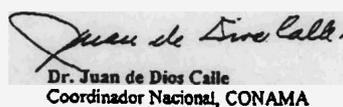
Adicionalmente, le solicito que se realicen las gestiones pertinentes para que la Asociación Bio-Itza actúe como administrador de los recursos de la Donación de referencia, así como que durante el periodo de ejercicio de la Donación se mantenga una estrecha coordinación entre esa asociación y la Secretaría con el objeto de que las acciones y gastos sean acordados y autorizados por ambas partes; lo anterior, con la finalidad de contar con un mejor control de los recursos disponibles y contribuir a alcanzar las metas establecidas mediante una efectiva asignación de los mismos.

Agradezco de antemano la atención que se sirva prestar al presente, y sin otro particular por el momento, me es propicia la ocasión para manifestar a Usted reiteradamente las seguridades de mi más atenta y distinguida consideración.

Atentamente



Arildo Que
Secretario Medio Ambiente
y Recursos Naturales



Dr. Juan de Dios Calle
Coordinador Nacional, CONAMA