

Log No. 98-362

**GEFSEC Project Tracking System**

**Response Due Date: 08/21/98**

**Correspondence Description**

Addressed to: <u>Mr. Kenneth King</u>	Correspondence Date: 08/17/98
Date Received: 08/18/98	Organization: WB
From: Lars Vidaeus	

**Assigned To: M. Ramos**

**Status: Open**

Type: Fax  
Topic: PDF A: PANAMA: Effective Protection with Community Participation of the New Protected Area of San Lorenzo

**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 respond on or before August 21st.

**Information Copies Sent To:**

K. Kumari, H. Acquay, M. Cruz, W. Lusigi, 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.**

THE WORLD BANK/IFC/M.I.G.A.

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 17, 1998

TO: See Distribution Below

FROM: *RP* Lars Vidaeus, GEF Executive Coordinator

EXTENSION: 34188

SUBJECT: **Panama: PDF Block A Request for GEF Medium Size Project  
Effective Protection of San Lorenzo with Community Participation**

Please find attached a PDF Block A Request for Panama: Effective Protection of San Lorenzo with Community Participation. We would appreciate your comments by August 21, 1998. Thank you.

**Distribution:**

R. Asenjo, UNDP (New York) (Fax: 212-906-6998)

A. Djoghla, UNEP (Nairobi) (Fax: 9-011-254-2-520-825)

R. Khanna, UNEP (Washington) (Fax: 202-331-4225)

cc: Messrs./Mmes

de Mesa, GEF Secretariat (fax 202-522-3240)

Koch-Weser, Lovejoy, Kellenberg, Abedin (LCSES); Cackler (LCC2C); Kimes, Castro, Mikitin, Elliott, Sharma, Bossard (ENVGC)

ENVGC ISC files  
IRIS

## PDF Block A

<b>PART I - ELIGIBILITY</b>	
<b>1. Project name:</b> Effective protection, with community participation, of the new protected area of San Lorenzo, Panama	<b>2. GEF Implementing Agency:</b> World Bank
<b>3. Country or countries in which the project is being implemented:</b> Panama	<b>4. Country eligibility:</b> Panama ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity on January 17th, 1995.
<b>5. GEF focal area(s), and/or cross-cutting issues:</b> Biological Diversity	<b>6. Operational program/Short-term measure:</b> This proposal falls within Operational Programs No. 3 (Forest Ecosystems).
<b>7. Project linkage to national priorities, action plans, and programs</b> <p>The San Lorenzo region constitutes an important link in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor in Panama, as well as constituting the northernmost section of the north-south biological corridor between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans on the west bank of the Panama Canal. It likewise contains the World Heritage Site of Fort San Lorenzo, which contain colonial fortifications at the mouth of the Chagres River. Fort San Lorenzo, together with the Portabelo colonial fortifications, was granted World Heritage Site status by UNESCO in 1984, and included in the World Monuments list of threatened monuments in 1997-1998. San Lorenzo lies outside the limits of the Panama Canal watershed, although it is part of the Canal area. In recognition of the biological importance of the area, approximately 12,000 hectares of the San Lorenzo region have been designated as a natural protected area by Law 21 of July 1997, through which the Regional Plan for the Development of the Interoceanic Region and the General Plan of Use, Conservation and Development of the Canal Area were approved.</p> <p>The Panama Atlantic Mesoamerican Biological Corridor project has given priority to the creation of an operational concept and organizational principles for those who formulate policies and approve them at a national level and at the Atlantic region level. At the same time, it has been designed to encourage other groups and financial institutions to participate in the conservation and management of different parts of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, making use of these operational concepts and organizational principles. The Panamanian Center for Research and Social Action (CEASPA), motivated in part by the Panama Atlantic Mesoamerican Biological Corridor project, proposes this project of effective protection for the newly created protected area of San Lorenzo, in the central part of the Atlantic Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.</p> <p>San Lorenzo is considered as a priority area for conservation in the National Environmental Strategy and the National Biodiversity Strategy (being drafted with UNDP/GEF support by the Institute for Renewable Natural Resources (INRENARE), which, in July 1998, was reestablished as the National Environmental Authority (ANAM). The proposed project area is of exceptional biological importance for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It provides an important forest "stepping stone" between the continuous forests of eastern and western Panama. San Lorenzo presently is separated from forested areas to the east by 15 km and to the west by 40 km. If the San Lorenzo forest area were cleared by colonists, the gap in the forested biological corridor would increase to 70 km.</li><li>• As part of an unusually steep rainfall gradient, it presents unique opportunities for scientific study. In central Panama, rainfall doubles between the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, in a distance of only 70 kilometers. The Pacific coast receives only about 1,600 mm of rain per year, while San Lorenzo receives more than 3,000 mm. This makes the area highly conducive to studies of the effects of climate on plant physiology, community ecology, and biological diversity, among other subjects, and has been the basis for extensive studies by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.</li><li>• It is the most biologically diverse part of central Panama, partly because wetter forests tend to have higher diversity, and partly because it contains a variety of different habitat types within a small area. On the coast</li></ul>	

south of Fort Sherman, four distinct forest types can be found within a distance of 3 km, including mangroves (saltwater wetlands), swamp forest (freshwater wetlands or cativales), lowland humid forest, and limestone forest, a type of forest which occurs on well-drained limestone soils and is very similar in composition to the dry forest of the Pacific coast despite the high local rainfall. Research on forest composition by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) has shown that San Lorenzo has substantially higher diversity of tree species than the forests of the Pacific side. The area also has higher bird diversity than the Pacific side of the isthmus, with records of more than 450 species. It has been identified by BirdLife International and the Panama Audubon Society as a Globally Important Bird Area, containing endemic species of the Caribbean Slope Endemic Bird Area and several species that are nationally threatened. It has also been identified by the Program "Partners in Flight" of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Department of Defense as an important habitat for migratory birds. (See report of International Working Group of Partners in Flight for the Conservation of Migratory and Resident Birds, Panama City 14-15 March 1996, on the Key Role of Lands Managed by the Department of Defense on the West Bank of the Panama Canal in the Conservation of the Value of Panama's Natural Heritage.)

The General Law of the Environment, which came into effect on July 3, 1998, makes specific reference to the possibility of co-management of protected areas. A recent report on the San Lorenzo area, prepared by the consortium Intercarib S.A./Nathan Associates for the Regional Interoceanic Authority in January 1997 as part of the General Plan of Use, Conservation and Development of the Canal Area, considers that the area is ideal for tourism, particularly ecotourism, based on the natural and historical values of the area. Furthermore, the area has also been selected as a key region within the new strategy of Tourism, Conservation and Research with strategic alliances with local communities, currently under development by the Panamanian Tourism Institute (IPAT). However, recognition as such is insufficient in the short term to provide the level of protection needed, considering that in less than twelve months, the entire area will revert to Panamanian control.

**8. GEF national operational focal point and date of country endorsement:**  
National Institute of Renewable Natural Resources (INRENARE), July 28, 1998.

**9. Project rationale and objectives:**

The San Lorenzo region has been controlled by the United States government since the establishment of the Panama Canal in 1903. In recent decades, the area has been used for jungle training by the United States Department of Defense; however, military operations in the area will cease in March 1999 and the Fort Sherman site will be handed over to Panama in mid-1999. The upcoming departure of the United States Government from the San Lorenzo area has resulted in a situation where national and local institutions have had insufficient opportunity to develop their own capabilities to manage environmental resources in the area, leading to a temporary institutional vacuum.

Immediately outside of the San Lorenzo area, agricultural colonization and uncoordinated development projects have led to increased deforestation and shrinking wildlife habitats, particularly for migratory birds which travel along the Atlantic coast of Central America. Local government representatives of the community of Achioté, contiguous to the San Lorenzo area, have spoken with national authorities in search of a solution to the increased agricultural conversion of forested area in and around the Canal Zone. Such conversion has yet to occur within the San Lorenzo area, largely in part to the presence of the United States military. However, with their imminent departure, it is expected that the forested areas may be colonized over the next three to five years, with coastal areas cleared for tourist development.

In order to address these threats, and in coordination with the policies for management of protected areas in the Panama Atlantic Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Project, the proposed project will support a management structure for the area that will allow for participation by interested parties together with the National Environment Authority (ANAM, formerly INRENARE), which has the legal responsibility for the National System of Natural Protected Areas and which fully supports the proposed project. These parties include: local government representatives, including representatives from the neighboring communities of

Achiote and Piña; the Panamanian Tourism Institute (IPAT); the Interoceanic Regional Authority (ARI); the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI); the National Culture Institute (INAC); representatives of private enterprise (including the Colon Chamber of Commerce, which currently provides for basic maintenance of the San Lorenzo World Heritage Site); the Panamanian Center for Research and Social Action (CEASPA); and the Panama Audubon Society.

CEASPA has held several meetings with local authorities from the neighboring communities of Achiote and Piña to discuss the project as well as to create synergies with institutions and individuals interested in working with the communities to solve the social, economic and environmental challenges facing their communities. At the request of the local authorities, CEASPA arranged a field trip for the local government authorities and community leaders to two protected areas, the Metropolitan Nature Park, the only one in the country currently run by a Patronato, and the Chagres National Park, run by INRENARE. The interest of the local leaders, in addition to that of the elected Representative for the Corregimiento, in protection of the existing forests was evident throughout the visit. In follow up to this visit, the local communities, together with CEASPA, have taken the initiative to include environmental education in the local primary school, requesting the presence of specialized (Peace Corps) volunteers. The communities are aware not only of the benefits of forest protection, but of the scientific research of worldwide importance which is being carried out near their communities. Furthermore, they also are very interested in the potential for ecotourism, and what it could mean for the local communities.

The potential for developing ecotourism to support the long-term viability of the San Lorenzo area is relatively high. Tourist visits to the area increased in 1997 due to an innovative arrangement under which cruise ships traveling through the Panama Canal anchor in Gatun Lake after passing through Gatun Locks, and the passengers disembark for a variety of tours, by helicopter, boat and bus, including a bus tour to historic Fort San Lorenzo. Likewise, San Lorenzo is a legendary area for bird watchers, as during the Christmas bird counts organized by the Panama Audubon Society 350 species have been reported during a 24-hour period. The area has been identified as a key component of the new strategy being developed for the Panamanian Tourism Institute, IPAT, to link tourism with conservation and scientific research. This project dovetails with the strategy, the implementation of which will help to ensure the sustainability of the project once GEF support has finished.

#### **Project goal and objectives**

Although the San Lorenzo area has been designated legally as a protected area, at present there are limited government funds to develop a strategy for the long-term conservation of the area. In response to this need, the proposed project aims to ensure the effective protection and management of the San Lorenzo area with community participation. This will be achieved by means of the following specific objectives:

- Develop and execute a plan of protection and management for the area;
  - Design and execute an appropriate legal/institutional framework for the management of the area;
  - Develop a program for community education and identify and execute activities for the generation of income related to the protected area for the benefit of the local communities; and
- Design and implement a system to ensure the continued financial viability of the effective protection of the area in the medium-to-long term.

#### **10. Expected outcomes:**

The expected outcomes of the project include the effective protection and management, through community participation, of a unique forested area of global biological significance given its role as a habitat for migratory birds, mammals, and ecosystems, as well as its historical and cultural values. This will be achieved by:

- A plan of protection and management for the entire area, developed and in execution.
- A legal/institutional framework for the management of the area designed and implemented, with participation of local communities, central and local government institutions, international and national



non-governmental organizations, international research institutions, private sector representatives.

- A program of community education and activities for income generation related to the designated protected areas, designed and in execution for the benefit of the local communities.
- A system or financial mechanism identified and established with the capacity to generate resources to ensure the financial viability for the effective protection of the area in the medium-to-long term.

#### 11. Planned activities to achieve outcomes:

- Development and execution of a plan of protection and management for the 12,000 hectare area, with regulations for the use of the various areas, with the complement of park rangers and other personnel, and the adequate infrastructure. (Cofinanced by Government of Panama – ANAM, IPAT, ARI, and Panama Canal Authority – as well as STRI, CEASPA and Panama Audubon Society);
- The design and execution of an appropriate legal/institutional framework for the management of the area, with the participation of central and local government institutions including ANAM, IPAT, INAC, possibly the Panama Canal Authority and the Interoceanic Regional Authority, non-governmental organizations including CEASPA and possibly the Panama Audubon Society, the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, community representatives from Achiote and possibly Piña and Escobal, and private enterprise. (Cofinanced by Government of Panama, STRI, CEASPA and Panama Audubon Society);
- Development of a program of community education and the identification and execution of activities for the generation of income related to the protected area for the benefit of the local communities. (Cofinanced by Government of Panama--ANAM and IPAT--and Fundación Natura); and
- The design and execution of a system to ensure continued financial viability for the effective protection of the area in the medium to long term. (Cofinanced by Government of Panama -- ANAM and IPAT).

#### Incremental Cost Justification

In the absence of GEF support, investments in biodiversity conservation in the San Lorenzo area would be principally financed by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI). STRI has long-term research and monitoring interests in the area, including:

- (1) **The Tropical Forest Canopy Program**, operated in conjunction with United Nations Environmental Program. This program has installed two large tower construction cranes in tropical forest to allow access to the forest canopy. One crane, installed in 1990, is in dry forest in Metropolitan Park near Panama City, while the other, installed in 1997, is in wet forest on Ft. Sherman. The two sites thus allow unique long-term comparative studies on tropical forests in different climatic regimes. Research topics include photosynthesis, carbon exchange, water relations, tree phenology, and diversity of canopy insects. Financial support has included US\$475,000 from the Government of Denmark for the purchase and installation of the Ft. Sherman crane, plus approximately US\$500,000 from STRI in in-kind and operating expenses and grant funding from NSF. This research program is scheduled to continue indefinitely.
- (2) **The Legacy Natural Resources Management Program**, funded through the U.S. Department of Defense. This program is monitoring populations of forest trees and birds in the San Lorenzo area in conjunction with other sites on Barro Colorado Island, in Soberania National Park, and near the Pacific coast. A six-hectare permanent forest plot has been set up in which all trees over 1cm in diameter are mapped, measured, tagged, and identified to species. The plot is periodically recensused in order to obtain information on forest demography, growth, and regeneration. Birds are being monitored at two sites. More than 1,000 individuals have been banded to provide information on demography and population health. This 5-year study is scheduled to end in 1999, but may be continued if funding becomes available. Total investment in the San Lorenzo part of this project is estimated at US\$320,000.

The estimated cost of these baseline activities over the next three-to-four years totals approximately

US\$750,000. Despite these important activities, they do little to ensure the effective protection of biodiversity or address the threats to biodiversity in the area once the region reverts back to the Republic of Panama in mid-1999 given: (a) the lack of a strategic plan for the long-term conservation in the region; (b) the lack of a legal/institutional framework for conservation; and (c) minimal involvement of local communities in conservation-related activities.

The proposed Mid-Sized Project would make possible activities that would: establish a legal/institutional framework for the long-term conservation of the area; contribute to greater awareness of the benefits of biodiversity conservation on the part of neighboring communities; and support the development of financial mechanisms for the effective protection of the area. With GEF assistance for addressing global biodiversity objectives outlined above, the GEF Alternative would include investments totaling US\$1,710,000, of which it is expected that US\$700,000 will be requested from GEF. Additional financing includes US\$60,000 from Fundación Natura, and a contribution of the difference valued at US\$200,000 from government and non-governmental institutions involved in the project, as well as continued financing from STRI indicated above.

#### **12. Stakeholders involved in project:**

The rural communities of Achote, Piña, and Escobal, and their local authorities; the municipal authorities of the district of Colon; the pertinent government authorities, including the National Environment Authority (ANAM, previously INRENARE), the Panamanian Tourism Institute (IPAT), the Interoceanic Regional Authority (ARI); the National Culture Institute (INAC), which has responsibility for the Fort San Lorenzo World Heritage Site; the private sector, including the Colon Chamber of Commerce that currently pays for basic upkeep of Fort San Lorenzo and other tourism-oriented private enterprise representatives; the scientific and research communities, including Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute; non-governmental organizations, including CEASPA, and the Panama Audubon Society. The U.S. Department of Defense is also interested in the project, and has agreed to provide office space in Fort Sherman until the area is transferred to Panama in mid-1999.

### **PART II - INFORMATION ON BLOCK A PDF ACTIVITIES**

#### **13. Activities to be financed by the PDF:**

The PDF Block A grant funding is to be used to supplement CEASPA resources and those of interested parties in the proposal in order to prepare the project proposal. The main activities proposed are the following:

- CEASPA will organize consultations, workshops, meetings and visits to the site, with interested parties, including the rural communities of Achote, Piña, and Escobal, and their local authorities; the municipal authorities of the district of Colon; the pertinent governmental authorities, the private sector, the scientific and research communities, and non-governmental organizations, to obtain the necessary information and develop the project in a participatory manner. CEASPA will also design and set up a website for the project and San Lorenzo area, with links to the proposed website for the Atlantic Biological Corridor in Panama, and other appropriate links.
- CEASPA will dedicate staff time and engage local consulting services to elaborate the pre-feasibility and terms of reference for the following expected results of the project:
  1. Plan for the protection and management of the 12,000 hectares;
  2. Appropriate legal/institutional framework for the management of the area;
  3. Program for community education, activities for the generation of income related to the protected area for the benefit of the local communities;
  4. System to ensure the continued financial viability for the effective protection of the area in the medium to long term.
  5. Development of the basic facts regarding the proposed project and writing up of the project document.

#### **14. Expected outputs and completion dates:**

The primary output is a project proposal, written according to GEF implementing agency guidelines and ready

for submission. Completion date is scheduled for January 1999. As necessary and as related input into the primary output, the following outputs are expected:

- **Consultations, workshops, meetings and visits to the site with the aforementioned interested parties.** Setting up website for the project. (September 15 to December 15, 1998).
- **Evaluation of the pre-feasibility and documents with the terms of reference completed for the following expected results of the project:** (from September 15 to December 15, 1998).
  1. Protection and management plan for the 12,000 hectares;
  2. Appropriate legal/institutional framework for the management of the area;
  3. Program for community education, activities for the generation of income related to the protected area for the benefit of the local communities; and
  4. System to ensure the continued financial viability for the effective protection of the area in the medium to long term.
- **Document with the basic facts of the project and writing up of the project document proposal to GEF for a medium sized grant, that will include the proposed activities, institutional arrangements and plan of execution, budget including contributions from co-financing, and monitoring plan including the indicators to measure performance.** (November 15, 1998 to January 15, 1999).

**15. Other possible contributors/donors and amounts:**

CEASPA will contribute staff time, use of materials and equipment and supplementary information from its ongoing programs in sustainable development and citizen's education, and specialized documentation and information center. It will also administer the project. This is difficult to cost precisely but an illustrative figure of US\$4,000 is used for budgetary purposes.

- a) For consultations, workshops, meetings, and visits to the site with the aforementioned interested parties the following in kind contributions are estimated:

CEASPA: US\$2,000  
 Government (INRENARE, ARI, IPAT): US\$1,000  
 Local Communities: US\$500  
 STRI: US\$500  
 TOTAL: US\$4,000

- b) For consulting services for the development of pre-feasibility and terms of reference for the expected results the following contributions are estimated:

CEASPA: US\$2,000  
 Government: US\$1,000  
 Communities: US\$500  
 STRI: US\$2,000  
 Fundación Natura: US\$1,500  
 TOTAL: US\$7,000

The U.S. Department of Defense has offered office space in Fort Sherman for the purposes of project preparation. However, no dollar value has been estimated for this support at this time.

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

- a) Consultations, workshops, meetings and site visits:

GEF: US\$5,000      Cofinancing: US\$4,000      Total: US\$9,000

- b) Evaluation of the pre-feasibility documents:



GEF: US\$15,000      Cofinancing: US\$7,000      Total: US\$22,000

**c) Preparation of Medium size project brief**

GEF - US\$5,000      Cofinancing: -      Total: US\$5,000

Total: GEF - US\$25,000      Cofinancing: US\$11,000      Total: US\$36,000

**PART III - INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANT INSTITUTION**

**17. Name:** Centro de Estudios y Acción Social Panameño (CEASPA).

**Contact Person in CEASPA:**

Charlotte Elton  
CEASPA  
Apartado 6-133  
El Dorado  
Panama  
Republic of Panama

Tel: (507) 226-6602, 6799  
Fax: (507) 226-5320

Charlotte Elton, the contact person in CEASPA for this project, has served as a Member of the Technical Committee of the Fundación Natura since 1995. In addition, Charlotte Elton was elected by Panamanian civil society organizations in 1997 to represent them on the National Council for Sustainable Development. (The government has not yet installed the Council).

**18. Date of establishment, membership, and leadership:** CEASPA was established in 1977. The Executive Director is Mariela Arce. The staff is composed of 18 full-time persons, of which 10 are technical/program oriented, and 8 are administrative and support staff. The President of the Board of Directors and Legal Representative is Raúl Leis.

CEASPA also has 25 Research Associates with specialties including forestry policies and management, national park management, community participation in natural resource management, urban and landscape planning, project formulation and evaluation, legal aspects of natural resource management, and use of geographic information systems for natural resource management.

**19. Mandate/terms of reference:**

CEASPA is a non-governmental organization that specializes in sustainable development. Its main objective is to promote and support national proposals that bring equity to economic growth, participation to democracy and environmental sustainability to development, through citizens' organizations.

**20. Sources of revenue:**

National and inter-national donations from institutions such as: GTZ (Germany), USAID, UNDP, UNICEF, the European Union and the WWF. Annual donations amount to approximately US\$230,000.

**21. Recent activities/programs, in particular those relevant to the GEF:**

Study on Policies that Affect the Forest Sector. (Panama case study for the Central American Council on Forests and Protected Areas, CCAB-AP). Published as: Políticas Forestales en Centroamérica: Análisis de las Restricciones para el Desarrollo del Sector Forestal. Editores Olman Segura, David Kaimowitz y Jorge Rodríguez. (San Salvador: CIFOR, CCAB-AP, FAO, GTZ, IICA, UICN, and WRI, 1997).

Assessment of National Sustainability. (Panama case study for a Central American project of the



*República de Panamá*  
**AUTORIDAD NACIONAL DEL AMBIENTE**

Administración General  
Tels. 232-6601 Fax 232-6612

Panamá, República de Panamá  
Aportado 2016, Panamá

Panamá, 28 de julio de 1998  
AG-0204

Señor  
**KRISTIN ELLIOT**  
Global Environment Divisions  
Environment Department,  
The World Bank  
Washington, D.C.

Señor Elliot:

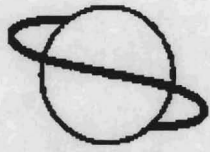
Nos dirigimos a usted en relación al proyecto "Protección Efectiva con Participación Comunitaria para la nueva Area Protegida de San Lorenzo, Panamá", presentada a nuestra institución por el Centro de Estudios y Acción Social Panameño (CEASPA).

Luego de un análisis del proyecto le informamos que damos el aval al mismo, en seguimiento a los trámites para su financiamiento por parte del Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Global.

Atentamente,

*Mirei E. Endara*  
**LIC. MIREI E. ENDARA**  
Administradora General

MEE/VB/kvch



GEF

## Global Environment Facility

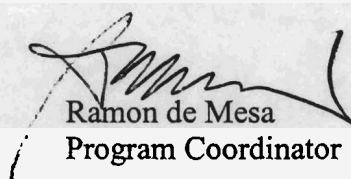
October 5, 1998

Mr. Cesar A. Tribalgos  
General Manager  
Instituto Panameno de Turismo  
Partado 4421, Panama 5  
Republic of Panama  
Fax: (507) 226 3483

Dear Mr. Tribaldos,

Thank you for your letter addressed to Mr. Mohamed T. El-Ashry dated July 14, 1998 endorsing the project "*Effective Protection with Community Participation of the New Protected Areas of San Lorenzo*". The World Bank, as the Implementing Agency, will contact you concerning further developments.

Sincerely,



Ramon de Mesa  
Program Coordinator

Cc: Mr. L. Vidaeus  
GEF Executive Coordinator, WB



APARTADO 4421, PANAMA 5, REPUBLICA DE PANAMA, TEL.: 226-7000  
FAX: (507) 226-3483

14 de julio de 1998  
Nota No. 110-061-98AAG

Director Ejecutivo  
Sr. Mohamed El -Ashry  
Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial (FMAM)

Estimado Sr. El-Ashry:

El *Plan de Acción para la Alianza Estratégica de Turismo-Conservación-Investigación Científica (TCI)*, que desarrolla el Instituto Panameño de Turismo (IPAT), en coordinación con las instituciones de línea de los sectores involucrados, tiene como objetivos principales contribuir a la **revalorización, la conservación y el aprovechamiento sostenible** de los recursos patrimoniales del país. El propósito global del *Plan de Acción TCI*, es garantizar una alta calidad y competitividad internacional de nuestros servicios y productos turísticos; de tal manera que sean compatibles con los valores, el interés económico, social, ambiental y visión nacional, además de reflejar la demanda turística mundial.

En consecuencia, el enfoque y objetivos del proyecto: **“Protección efectiva con participación comunitaria”** para la nueva área protegida de San Lorenzo, que ha presentado a la consideración de su despacho el *Centro de Estudios y Acción Social Panameña (CEASPA)*, no sólo es compatible con el Marco Estratégico planteado por el *Plan de Acción TCI* y contribuiría a su efectiva implementación en un área de gran valor cultural y natural, favoreciendo a la población local.

Estamos en el proceso de crear una serie de mecanismos institucionales y legales que nos permitirán operativizar el *Plan de Acción TCI*. El organismo institucional a cargo de la coordinación de dicho Plan, es el *Consejo de Liderazgo TCI*. Este organismo multisectorial tendrá funciones y atribuciones que le permitan formular y monitorear el cumplimiento de políticas, programas y proyectos vinculados al desarrollo del turismo patrimonial sostenible.

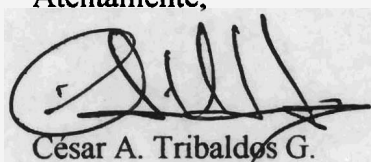
*Turismo: La alternativa para el desarrollo de Panamá*

El *Consejo TCI* está presidido por el Coordinador *del Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Sostenible*, figura que recae en el Viceministro de la Presidencia, y sus miembros son las Maximas Autoridades de las siguientes Instituciones, el Instituto Panameño de Turismo (IPAT); la Secretaría Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación de la Presidencia de la República (SENACYT), la Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente (ANAM); el Instituto Nacional de Cultura (INAC); la Autoridad Marítima Nacional; la Ciudad del Saber y el Instituto Smithsonian de Investigaciones Tropicales (STRI) basado en Panamá.

El marco orientador y la coordinación multisectorial con los sectores de Turismo, Conservación e Investigación Científica que le procuraría el *Plan de Acción TCI* a este proyecto, garantizaría la consistencia de sus propuestas ecoturísticas locales, con parametros básicos de diseño de servicios y experiencias turísticas y lo integrarían en las *Rutas y Destinos Turísticos* que ilustran la singularidad temática patrimonial nacional de Panamá: ***Puente del Mundo***.

Igualmente la plataforma institucional publica-privada del *Plan de Acción TCI*, promovería alianzas estratégicas de los sectores comunitarios locales con la industria turística local y de áreas complementarias, en la interpretación y conservación del patrimonio cultural y natural, aumentando la viabilidad económica y sostenibilidad del proyecto de San Lorenzo.

Atentamente,



César A. Tribaldos G.  
Gerente General

CAT/HAMJ/gw



**INSTITUTO PANAMEÑO DE TURISMO (IPAT)**

**Tel.: 226-7000**  
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**Apartado 4421**  
**Panama 5**  
**Republic of Panama**

**Our ref.: Nota No. 110-061098AAG**

**July 14, 1998**

**Mr. Mohamed El-Ashry**  
**CEO and Chairman**  
**GEF**


**Dear Sir:**

The TCR Action Plan now being developed by IPAT, the Panamanian Tourism Institute, in conjunction with relevant sector line institutions, is designed to contribute to the enhancement, protection, and sustainable exploitation of the country's heritage resources. The overall goal of the Plan is to guarantee the high quality and international competitiveness of Panama's tourism services and products, and to do so in a manner compatible with the country's particular values, economic, social and environmental interests, and national vision, as well as with world tourism demand.

It is for these reasons that the focus and objectives of the project for the new protected area of San Lorenzo (which comes under the program known as "Public Involvement in GEF-Financed Projects"), which was submitted for GEF consideration by CEASPA, are consistent not only with the strategic framework developed for the TCR Action Plan but will also contribute to its successful implementation in an area of great cultural and natural interest, benefiting the local population at the same time.

We are in the process of creating a series of institutional and legal mechanisms that will enable us to put the TCR Action Plan on an operational footing. The institutional entity responsible for coordinating the Plan is the TCR Leadership Council, a multi-sectoral organization to be vested with powers and functions that will enable it to formulate – and monitor implementation of – policies, programs, and projects linked with the development of sustainable heritage tourism.

The TCR Council is chaired by the Coordinator of the National Sustainable Development Council, an office that falls to the Vice Minister of the Presidency. The membership of the TCR Council is made up of the heads of the following institutions: the



Panamanian Tourism Institute (IPAT); the National Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation (SENACYT), which is attached to the Office of the President of the Republic; the National Environmental Authority (ANAM); the National Institute of Culture (INAC); the National Maritime Authority; the Ciudad del Saber; and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

The policy framework and the multi-sectoral coordination with the tourism, conservation, and scientific research sectors which the TCR Action Plan would provide for this project will ensure that its local eco-tourism proposals are consistent with the basic design parameters for tourism services and attractions. They will also ensure San Lorenzo's inclusion on the list of Rutas y Destinos Turísticos, which highlight the singular natural and cultural heritage of Panama and the reasons why it can be regarded as a "world bridge."

Likewise, the fact that the TCR Action Plan is backed by a complex of public and private institutions will promote the development of strategic alliances between local communities and local and related-area tourism ventures -- alliances that will support the interpretation and conservation of Panama's cultural and natural patrimony, thereby simultaneously reinforcing the financial feasibility and sustainability of the San Lorenzo project.

Yours truly,

/s/ (illegible)  
César A. Tribaldos G.  
General Manager

1. TN: Plan de Action para la Alianza Estratégica de Turismo-Conservación-Investigación Científica (Action Plan for the Strategic Alliance of Tourism, Conservation and Scientific Research).
2. TN: Centro de Estudios y Acción Social Panameña (Panamanian Center for Social Research and Action).

# MESSAGE CONFIRMATION

10/05/98 09:27  
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# MESSAGE CONFIRMATION

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10/05 09:28	00'21"	LARS VIDAEDUS	001/001	OK		0000

**GEFSEC Correspondence Tracking System*****Response Due Date: 08/19/98*****Correspondence Description**

Addressed to: <u>Mr. Mohamed El-Ashry</u>	Correspondence Date: 07/14/98
Date Received: 08/05/98	Organization: Instituto Panameno De Turismo, Panama
From: Tribaldos G., Cesar A.	

<b><i>Assigned To: R. De Mesa</i></b>
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<b><i>Status: Open</i></b>
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Type: Letter
Topic: TCR Action Plan

**Action Instructions**

- ☐ For information only. No action needed.
- ☒ Please handle
- ☐ 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 for Mr. Mohamed El-Ashry's signature or Acting CEO
- ☐ Please reply directly and provide a copy.
- ☐ Please review and/or advise.

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