



Global Environment Facility

MOHAMED T. EL-ASHRY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AND CHAIRMAN

March 6, 2000

Dear Council Member:

I am writing to notify you that we have today posted a medium-sized project proposal entitled *Regional (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, Peru): Catalyzing Conservation Action in Latin America: Identifying Priority Sites and Best Management Alternatives in Five Globally Significant Ecoregions*. The GEF will contribute \$750,000 towards the total cost of \$1.43 million.

The project will identify the priority global diversity sites and catalyze the implementation of conservation action by designing management activities in the following globally significant ecoregions:

- Choco/Darien tropical forest (Colombia, Ecuador, Panama);
- Eastern Andes Cordillera Real Montane Forest (Ecuador, Colombia, Peru);
- Peruvian Yungas (Peru);
- Bolivian Yungas (Bolivia); and
- Chaco Savannahs (Paraguay, Bolivia)

The project will enable decision- and policymakers to strategically target scarce human and financial resources to areas that have the highest biodiversity values. Experience gained through this project will serve as a model that can be replicated throughout Latin America and the Caribbean where limited resources require focused conservation actions to conserve the greatest biodiversity values.

The proposal is being posted for your information. We would welcome any comments you may wish to provide by March 24, 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 download the document for you. Alternatively, you may request a copy of the document from the Secretariat. If you make such a request, please provide us with your current mailing address.

Sincerely,

Cc: Alternates, Implementing Agencies, STAP



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
 PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
 ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

GEF COORDINATION OFFICE

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TELEFAX TRANSMISSION

To:	Mr. Kenneth King Assistant Chief Executive Officer GEF Secretariat Washington, D.C. 20433, <u>USA</u>	Date:	8 Feb. 00
Telefax:	(1 202) 522 3240/3245 ATTN: GEF Programme Coordination	Room:	P-205
From:	Ahmed Djoghlat Executive Coordinator UNEP/GEF Coordination Office	Extension:	4165
		Ref:	MSP/BD/OP1
Subject: <i>Submission of Medium sized Project</i>			

Please find attached the revised medium sized project proposal, "Catalyzing Conservation Action In Latin America: Identifying priority sites and best management alternatives in five globally significant ecoregions". The revised version addresses the comments raised by the GEF Secretariat. Please note that the Implementing Agency fee is US\$ 146,000.

Your comments would be appreciated by 29 February 2000.

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

**CATALYZING CONSERVATION ACTION IN LATIN AMERICA:
Identifying priority sites and best management alternatives in five globally
significant ecoregions**

GEF Medium Size Project

PROJECT BRIEF

**CATALYZING CONSERVATION ACTION IN LATIN AMERICA:
Identifying priority sites and best management alternatives in five globally significant ecoregions**

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MEDIUM SIZED PROJECT BRIEF

CATALYZING CONSERVATION ACTION IN LATIN AMERICA: Identifying priority sites and best management alternatives in five globally significant ecoregions

Project Summary

PROJECT IDENTIFIERS	
<p>1. Project name:</p> <p>CATALYZING CONSERVATION ACTION IN LATIN AMERICA: Identifying priority sites and best management alternatives in five globally significant ecoregions</p>	<p>2. GEF implementing agency:</p> <p>UNEP</p>
<p>3. Countries of project implementation:</p> <p>Bolivia Colombia Ecuador Panama Paraguay Peru</p>	<p>4. Country eligibility:</p> <p><u>Bolivia</u> ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity on July 14, 1994 <u>Colombia</u> ratified the CBD November 28, 1994 <u>Ecuador</u> ratified the CBD February 23, 1993 <u>Panama</u> ratified the CBD on January 17, 1995 <u>Paraguay</u> ratified the CBD on February 24, 1994 <u>Peru</u> ratified the CBD on June 7, 1993</p>
<p>5. GEF focal area: Biodiversity</p>	
<p>6. Operational program/Short-term measure:</p> <p>The project will identify the priority global biodiversity sites and catalyze the implementation of conservation action by designing management alternatives in the following globally significant ecoregions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choco/Darien tropical forest (Colombia, Ecuador, Panama); • Eastern Andes Cordillera Real Montane forest (Ecuador, Colombia, Peru); • Peruvian Yungas (Peru); • Bolivian Yungas (Bolivia); and • Chaco Savannas (Paraguay and Bolivia). <p>These ecoregions are identified as “Priority One” for conservation in <u>A Conservation Assessment of the Terrestrial Ecoregions of Latin America and the Caribbean</u> (Dinerstein et al, 1995) and encompass all four GEF Operational Programs: arid and semi-arid ecosystems; coastal and wetland ecosystems; forest ecosystems; and mountain ecosystems. The primary focus of the project, however will be OP 1, Semi-arid and arid</p>	

replicated throughout Latin America and the Caribbean where limited resources require focussed conservation actions to conserve the greatest biodiversity values.

7. Project linkage to national priorities, action plans, and programs:

The six countries involved are developing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) for which the identification of priority sites and conservation actions will be critical steps. Each of the six will utilize the outputs of this project, which makes it particularly timely. Many of these countries are hampered by a lack of knowledge of the biodiversity within their borders although the five targeted ecoregions have already been identified as priority biodiversity areas (Dinerstein et al, 1995). The project will address this information gap and in doing so strengthen and support ongoing conservation planning and enable the participating countries to better target their conservation strategies and investments.

Biodiversity conservation strategic planning and programs that will benefit from this project are summarized below:

1. Paraguay, Ecuador, and Panama are currently developing their NBSAP. Ecuador is revamping its biodiversity conservation and environmental management plans and will use the identified sites and recommended actions generated by the project in its national initiatives. Panama and Paraguay also intend to utilize the information generated by this project in their NBSAPs.
2. Bolivia is developing a national biodiversity strategy and the Government has issued a mandate that its national policies must support the implementation of international conservation agreements, develop coordinating actions and mechanisms with national and international entities, and increase research and awareness of biodiversity protection. Bolivia has made strides towards achieving this goal with the assistance of a project funded by the World Bank (Bolivia: Biodiversity Conservation). TNC has already discussed with the Government how the proposed project will assist Bolivia and the World Bank project in further defining critical sites for conservation within the Yungas.
3. Colombia has implemented a strategic Ecosystem Management Program for its protected areas that demonstrates the importance of ecosystem-based conservation, including part of the Choco Biogeographical region. Colombia aims to consolidate its protected areas system, develop new technologies and increase public awareness to better implement biodiversity conservation. The project supports the goal of the national strategy, which will help ensure the implementation of the recommendations arising from the project.
4. Peru publishes an annual report of the country's biodiversity status and is focusing on conserving the biodiversity of genes, species and ecosystems within the framework of sustainable development. Scientific research and knowledge about flora and fauna are a national priority. Peru is working in rural areas to develop compatible use of biodiversity resources and priority sites need to be identified prior to implementing conservation programs and activities.

<p>8. National operational focal point review (dates): submitted, acknowledged by, endorsed:</p> <p>1.Bolivia: July 7, 1998. Signed by Neiesa Roca Hurtado, Vice Ministry of the Environment.</p> <p>2.Colombia: July 22, 1998. Signed by Dr. Yolanda Ramirez Prado Coordinator of International Cooperation.</p> <p>3.Ecuador: February 9, 1998. Signed by Dr. Flor de Maria Valverde, Minister of Environment,</p> <p>4.Panama: May 20, 1998. Signed by Mirei Endara, Executive Director- ANAM.</p> <p>5.Paraguay: July 25, 1998. Signed by Dr. Guillermo Sosa, Minister.</p> <p>6.Peru: May 22, 1999 Signed by Paul Remy, Executive Secretary of the National Environmental Counsel.</p>
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PROJECT OBJECTIVES

<p>9. Project rationale and objectives:</p> <p>Goal: Conserving and sustainably using biodiversity by protecting the highest priority sites at the appropriate level within five (5) <u>Level One</u> priority Latin American ecoregions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Choco/Darien tropical forest (Colombia, Ecuador, Panama); ? Eastern Andes Cordillera Real montane forest (Ecuador, Colombia, Peru); ? Peruvian Yungas (Peru); ? Bolivian Yungas (Bolivia); and ? Chaco Savannas (Paraguay and Bolivia). <p>Objective: Catalyzing science-based decision-making and conservation action on landscape management alternatives in the important ecoregions, particularly in the development and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP).</p>	<p>Indicators</p> <p>(a) Priority sites identified with defined conservation management alternatives within each ecoregion.</p> <p>(b) Adoption and implementation of conservation management alternatives by stakeholders.</p>
<p>10. Expected project outcomes:</p> <p>1) Identification of priority unprotected sites with the highest global biodiversity importance for future conservation action.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? GIS maps scaled to 1:500,000 for the five ecoregions and 1:50,000-1:100,000 for the key sites with an in-depth scientific and standardized analysis of the global biodiversity benefits. These benefits revolve around biodiversity index of a site,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Electronic and hard copy presentation of the results in a clear and easy to view and understand format (utilizing Geoexplorer – software)
2) Identify plans for conservation management alternatives developed and presented to key stakeholders (Governments, community representatives, national and international NGOs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Best management alternatives selected and prioritized ? Agreement with stakeholders indicating the adequacy of management alternative of site(s) identified through a landscape ecology approach.
3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Increased capacity of the CDCs to catalyze conservation actions at national level achieved. ? Enhanced regional co-operation, networking information exchange on the use of spatial technologies, protocols, common methodologies ? Building stakeholder support for science-based decision making and promoting application of project outputs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? CDCs strengthened at a national level to support biodiversity conservation management alternatives recommended by the project ? Cooperation with international metadata networks established. These included entities such as The ClearingHouse Mechanism (CHM), the InterAmerican Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN), and others. ? Recommendations from this project accepted by decision and policy makers.
11. Planned Activities to Achieve Outcomes (including the cost in US \$ of each activity)	Indicators:
1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Compile critical data on biodiversity and threats to biodiversity from biological databases, map study and satellite images. ? Hold workshops to standardize methodology among the CDCs. ? Determine cartography analysis, geo-referencing, image classification, selection matrixes, databases and cartographic modeling. Produce preliminary assessments and verify secondary information or further investigation as needed. ? Prioritize critical areas based on scientific data, methodology. consultation and conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Data gathered for : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic maps Satellite images Ecological, Biological, Socio economic Data ? Standardized process, digitalization, and map standards set. ? Cartographic model selected, georeferencing, image classification, matrix selection process completed ? Areas prioritized within ecoregions. This developed in coordination with stakeholders ? Prioritized areas evaluated based on matrices. ? One or two sites per ecoregion identified and a

<p>2) Use the site prioritization to determine effective biodiversity protection and conservation management alternatives that support and correspond to existing national planning efforts.</p> <p>US\$ 257,000 (GEF: US\$198,366)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? A Landscape Ecology Analysis complete with cooperation of national and local stakeholders. ? Landscape management alternatives Identified. 												
<p>3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Disseminate scientific data and biodiversity protection and conservation management alternatives via the CDC network to key stakeholders through consultation and publications. Distribute via electronic format also for other key decision-makers, communities, NGOs, and international organizations. ? Organize workshops for key national and local government policymakers, NGOs, multilateral institutions and other stakeholders and present different prioritized management alternatives to achieve implementation of conservation actions. ? Develop exchanges between the CDCs and others in the scientific, conservation and political communities and reinforce biodiversity networks. ? Develop CDC role to catalyze in conservation plan implementation for continued management. <p>US\$ 322,000 (GEF: US\$ 106,083)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Communication vehicles such as CDs, literature, and others produced and functioning. ? Informed stakeholders capable of making decisions with gathered information. ? Enhanced capacity of the Network of Conservation Data Centers acquired through an exchange of information for conservation purposes. ? Policy makers will increase the use of information provided by each Conservation Data Center to achieve sound policy making. 												
<p>12. Estimated Budget (in US dollars)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Project Preparation Block A Grant:</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: right;">US\$ 25,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GEF Mid-Size Grant:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">US\$ 725,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding-left: 20px;">(Includes Executing Agency Management Costs: US\$ 140,650)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Total Co-financing:</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>US\$ 680,000</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding-left: 20px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC (in kind: \$288,000) • TNC (in kind: \$262,000) • CAF (cash: \$130,000) </td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL (Including Block A)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">US\$ 1,430,000</td> </tr> </table>		Project Preparation Block A Grant:	US\$ 25,000	GEF Mid-Size Grant:	US\$ 725,000	(Includes Executing Agency Management Costs: US\$ 140,650)		<u>Total Co-financing:</u>	<u>US\$ 680,000</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC (in kind: \$288,000) • TNC (in kind: \$262,000) • CAF (cash: \$130,000) 		TOTAL (Including Block A)	US\$ 1,430,000
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The CDCs were founded with the support of TNC and provide continually updated information of biological and ecological ecoregion data. They are designed to provide data for identifying high-priority natural areas in need of protection, assisting in sustainable environmental action and identifying potential conflicts and solutions for the development planning process. Each of the CDCs assists in site-specific biodiversity protection through their involvement with key stakeholders. Government agencies, development banks, communities and national and international conservation organizations to assist conservation and sustainable development planning use the information that they compile, analyze and produce. The CDC Network is the only one of its kind in Latin America committed to the distribution of scientifically based information for conservation purposes on aspects such as social issues, legal parameters, and biological and geographic data, among others.

The six CDCs for this project are all legally established and registered within their respective countries, receive funding from a variety of sources and work in both governmental and NGO circles.

The **Bolivian CDC**, for instance, functions as the information management division within TROPICO, an independent NGO that collaborates with other conservation groups (FAN and PROMETA). The **Colombia CDC** is part of the Cooperacion Autonoma Regional Valle del Cauca (CVC), a governmental institution with influence within part of the Choco and one that has worked extensively with local communities. In **Ecuador**, the **CDC** is an independent NGO that works with the Ministry of Environment, Fundacion Natura, Fundacion Jatun Sacha, and Fundacion Maquipucuna. The **Panama CDC**, was established as the science division of the strongest NGO (ANCON) and has established contacts with other scientific institutions such as STRI. ANCON possesses strong links with the government as well as with several communities and population centers of the Darien region. The **Paraguay CDC**, is housed within the Department of Wildlife of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. The **Peru CDC** works in close collaboration with Fundacion Pronaturaleza, and is located in the Forestry Department of La Molina University which is developing strong ties with local communities.

TNC is committed to supporting the CDCs through its Conservation Science and Parks in Peril Programs; particularly as TNC implements its multi-regional strategies. Each CDC in the Network uses TNC's Natural Heritage Program scientific methodology as the basis for its work, an approach developed in the early 70s. This data management system integrates information on species, ecosystems, and protected natural areas using more than a dozen interrelated computer databases, maps (GIS and remote sensing), and bibliographic materials. The Governments of Bolivia, Colombia, Panama, and Paraguay have adopted a similar scientific methodology that will facilitate the utilization of the information produced during the project and eventual implementation of the project's conservation management strategies. Because species cross-political borders, TNC supports the exchange of biodiversity information to address regional ecosystem issues. All of the CDCs use similar analytical methodology and computer software to produce consistent results and obtain comparable data over time. Further details on each CDC are in the project brief.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has been a registered nonprofit conservation organization in the United States

<p>compatible and in doing so strengthens local capacity to conserve biodiversity.</p> <p>TNC operates the largest private system of nature sanctuaries in the world on its own and in collaboration with partners; in addition, scientific identification and developing management alternatives for sites with globally significant biodiversity is a key focus within The Conservancy. The project fits well within TNC's Mission: to preserve plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the habitat in which they need to survive, based on a sound scientific foundation. In addition, the project is aligned with the mission of the CDCs to provide reliable biological information on a continual basis to serve as a foundation from which to make conservation policy decisions based on sound science. TNC has sound relationships and significant influence with the governments of the countries it works with in Latin America. These relationships will be important to ensure the implementation of the conservation alternatives and actions developed by the project as well as to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project's impact.</p>
<p>14. Information on proposed executing agency (if different from above): Conservation Data Centers of the six countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru) in cooperation with TNC. (See Box 13 above).</p>
<p>15. Date of initial submission of project concept: Project idea: December, 1998 Block A approval: March, 1999</p>

INFORMATION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCY:

<p>16. Project Number:</p>		
<p>17. Implementing agency contact persons:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td> <p>Mr. Ashbindu Singh Regional Coordinator UNEP Environmental Information Program-North America EROS Data Center Sioux Falls, SD 57198 Tel: (+1) 605 594 6107/6117 Fax: (+1) 605 594 6119</p> </td> <td> <p>Mr. Mark Zimsky Senior Programme Officer Biodiversity UNEP/GEF Coordination Office P.O. Box 30552 Nairobi, Kenya Tel: (+254 2) 623 257 Fax: (+254 2) 624 041</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Mr. Ashbindu Singh Regional Coordinator UNEP Environmental Information Program-North America EROS Data Center Sioux Falls, SD 57198 Tel: (+1) 605 594 6107/6117 Fax: (+1) 605 594 6119</p>	<p>Mr. Mark Zimsky Senior Programme Officer Biodiversity UNEP/GEF Coordination Office P.O. Box 30552 Nairobi, Kenya Tel: (+254 2) 623 257 Fax: (+254 2) 624 041</p>
<p>Mr. Ashbindu Singh Regional Coordinator UNEP Environmental Information Program-North America EROS Data Center Sioux Falls, SD 57198 Tel: (+1) 605 594 6107/6117 Fax: (+1) 605 594 6119</p>	<p>Mr. Mark Zimsky Senior Programme Officer Biodiversity UNEP/GEF Coordination Office P.O. Box 30552 Nairobi, Kenya Tel: (+254 2) 623 257 Fax: (+254 2) 624 041</p>	
<p>18. Project linkage to implementing agency programs:</p> <p>UNEP has a primary role in the GEF in catalysing the development of scientific and technical analysis and in advancing environmental management in GEF-financed activities. UNEP also provides guidance on relating</p>		

is made. The proposed project can provide information to the UNEP- CIAT project to ensure that the data emanating from this initiative is fed into the institutional framework within the UNEP-CIAT project. The project results and lessons learned can also feed into UNEP's ENRIN and CCAD strategy for environmental information management particularly the implementation of REDBIO, a regional network for management of biodiversity information which currently focuses on Mesoamerica. In addition, the lessons learned will be important to the World Bank-CIAT-UNEP project on Indicators of Rural Sustainability which aims to develop, test and refine environmental, land quality and their related indicators and information tools in a user-friendly geographic information system (GIS) interface, for integrating rural sustainability considerations into policy-making and planning and improve environmental management at different scales in Central America countries.

RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES

The proposed project will build on the recommendations of the study: A Conservation Assessment of The Terrestrial Ecoregions of Latin America and the Caribbean, (Dinerstein, et al, 1995) which identified globally important ecoregions. The Dinerstein study recommends further analysis at an ecoregional or intra-ecoregional scale: “Such analysis at finer geographic scales are an essential follow-up to this study. Without them, donors run the risk of financing biodiversity conservation in the most important ecoregions within a major habitat type, but conserving...less important habitat blocks within those ecoregions, or at an insufficient level to conserve their biodiversity.(p.2)”

The present lack of detailed biodiversity information can result in attempts to protect critical habitats that are ineffective, fragmented and poorly planned and managed. One cause for this lack of information is the absence of scientific and technical geographic and biological analysis; information that is essential to supporting the policy-making process. Without scientific evidence key sites remain unknown and face destruction. Similarly through the lack of needed information, protected areas may be more likely to be chosen for political or other reasons than to maximize the protection of globally significant biodiversity. Sites with globally important biodiversity can suffer from inappropriate, non-compatible development and be destroyed before the biodiversity value of the site is understood and recognized.

The absence of critical scientific information leading to inadequate actions may be regarded as a common occurrence. This has led to the current situation where there is incomplete scientific evidence about the biological representiveness of current protected areas and unprotected biodiversity rich sites. This was the case in western Ecuador. After colonization, development and extensive agriculture was expanded, an environmental assessment was conducted several years later and revealed that the area’s outstanding biodiversity that had been nearly destroyed. Information necessary to implement conservation action within ecoregions of significant importance is available however, the level of detail and scales are inadequate for effective decision making at a local level.

Biodiversity conservation must be supported by a strong policy framework that in turn is informed by sound science and geographic information. The identification of globally significant biodiversity at a finer scale than existing maps, analyzed together with the most current biological databases, provides the means to develop targeted conservation action plans that are essential for protecting biodiversity.

In response to the mandate of the Convention of Biological Diversity, each of the six countries involved in this project have started efforts to develop and implement a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). Although their stage of development varies from country to country, many of the basic elements required to complete them are very much the same. Currently, the general

level of conservation sites. This is accomplished by enhancing the geographic scale, making it adequate for local policy making while at the same time maintaining enough critical information to further develop ecoregional studies. Next, the project will identify global biodiversity priority sites in unprotected areas of five (5) ecoregions and assists governments in the development and implementation of conservation strategies/ management alternatives to conserve globally significant biodiversity in each ecoregion. These alternatives will include a full range of management options including identifying how the landscape can be supportive of conservation activities through the development of new protected areas, biological corridors, conservation easements, private reserves, national forests, to extractive preserves, and other sustainable use activities. Lastly, the project will provide a base on which to further a scientific/technical component of the NBSAP implementation in each country. The project's results will address this gap by producing practical data and action plans for the priority sites. These will include detailed information that can be utilized by local communities, municipalities, regional and national officials and others responsible for planning for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Areas and sites to be identified are located within the following Level One priority ecoregions as categorized by the Dinerstein study:

1. Choco/Darien tropical forest (Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, ecoregion #39 of the WB/WWF map);
2. Eastern Andes Cordillera Real montane forest (Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, ecoregion # 47);
3. Peruvian Yungas (Peru, ecoregion # 51);
4. Bolivian Yungas (Bolivia, ecoregion # 52); and
5. Chaco Savannas (Paraguay and Bolivia, ecoregion # 115).

The Choco ecoregion is unique as it is the only continuous tropical rain forest towards the Pacific in South America, with some of the highest rates of rainfall on the Continent. For instance, the western Andean foothills at the Colombia-Ecuador border receive more than 6 meters of rain annually. Most of the important rivers and watersheds such as the Mira, Esmeraldas and the Guayas that flow to the Pacific in South America begin here making the Choco region an important climatic regulator. The Choco ecoregion is catalogued as containing some of the richest biological diversity on earth and a number of endemic species. Many of these species are not found in the Amazon or Central America. Among an extensive list of important species that are currently at risk are Baird's western tapir, an endemic raccoon, crocodiles, birds and insects like the Cypris Blue Morpho. Unique tree species are found as are many plants for human use. The coastal zone of the Choco has important Mangrove ecosystems containing a variety of species including red and black mangroves, and the rare blue crab.

Table 1. GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY VALUES WITHIN ECOREGIONS

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY VALUE	CHOCO	EASTERN CORDILLERA REAL MONTANE FOREST	PERU YUNGAS	BOLIVIAN YUNGAS	CHACO
Ecoregional Level value	High	High	High	High	High
Biological distinctiveness	High	High	Medium	Medium	High
Endemic species *	Medium	High	High	High	Medium
Endangered species *	Medium	High	High	High	Medium
Endangered habitat *	High	High	High	High	Medium
Migratory Bird value	High	High	High	High	Medium
Watershed value	High	High	High	High	High
Climate value	High	High	High	High	High

Source: CDC Bolivia, CDC Colombia, CDC Ecuador, CDC Peru.

* See the following Chart for examples of endangered, rare and highly threatened species and habitat in these ecoregions.

Table 2. GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY SPECIES EXAMPLES WITHIN THE FIVE KEY ECOREGIONS

REGION					
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY AND THREATS	CHOCO	EASTERN CORDILLERA REAL MONTANE FOREST	PERU YUNGAS	BOLIVIAN YUNGAS	CHACO
Sample endemic mammal species	Geoffroy's tamarin <i>Saguinus geoffrogi</i>	Black mantle tamarin <i>Saguinus nigricollis</i>	Pacarana <i>Dinomys branickii</i>	Pacarana <i>Dinomys branickii</i>	Taguá <i>Catagonus wagneri</i>
	Baird's tapir <i>Tapirus bairdii</i>	Venado del Antisana <i>Hippocamelus antisensis</i>	Venado de monte <i>Mazama chunyi</i>	Venado de monte <i>Mazama chunyi</i>	
	Nutria <i>Lutra longicaudis</i>				
Sample endangered mammal species	Bush Dog <i>Speothos venaticus</i>	Spectacle bear <i>Tremarctos ornatus</i>	Spectacle bear <i>Tremarctos ornatus</i>	Spectacle bear <i>Tremarctos ornatus</i>	Taguá <i>Catagonus wagneri</i>
	Giant ant eater <i>Myrmecopheca tridactyla</i>	Venado del Antisana <i>Hippocamelus antisensis</i>	Venado de monte <i>Mazama chunyi</i>	Pacarana <i>Dinomys branickii</i>	Giant ant eater <i>Myrmecophaga tridactyla</i>
	Baird's tapir <i>Tapirus bairdii</i>	Black mantle tamarin <i>Saguinus nigricollis</i>		Venado de monte <i>Mazama chunyi</i>	Tapir <i>Tapirus terrestris</i> Giant armadillo <i>Priodontes maximus</i>
Sample endangered habitat type	Guandal	Cloud Forest	Cloud Forest	Cloud Forest	Gallery Forest
	Rain Forest				

Source CENTRO DE DATOS PARA LA CONSERVACION (CDC) BOLIVIA. 1996. Libro rojo de los vertebrados de Bolivia (Red book of vertebrates of Bolivia). Offset Boliviana EDOBOL. La Paz, Bolivia

EISENBERG, JOHN. 1989. Mammals of the Neotropics: The northern Neotropics. Volume 1. University of Chicago. United States of America.

EMMONS, LOUISE H. 1997. Neotropical rainforest mammals: a field guide. 2nd edition. University of Chicago. United States of America.

All four of the GEF's biodiversity Operational Programs are included in the ecoregions that are the focus of this project, however, the *primary* focus will be on 1) Arid and semi-arid and 2) forest ecosystems, which together comprise the largest part of the project's geographic area. Each of the ecoregions has diverse biodiversity characteristics that will be studied with a scientifically rigorous methodology using a variety of analytical approaches and the information will be evaluated using standardized databases and matrixes.

The primary objectives of the project are to:

- 1) scientifically analyze and identify priority sites with globally significant biodiversity in the five ecoregions;
- 2) develop and recommend a set of conservation management alternatives and protection strategies for the identified sites to the project stakeholders;
- 3) catalyze the adoption of strategies to protect and conserve the globally significant biodiversity of the identified sites in the five ecoregions.

CURRENT SITUATION

Most of the geographic information as well as biological and ecological analysis focus upon already protected areas or identify global ecoregions at coarse scales (1:1,000,000). Currently, there are no studies identifying management alternatives based on landscape ecology management at an ecoregional level. Not developing this needed information to better design and implement policies can result in misidentifying globally critical areas, sites for conservation of unique and endangered species as well as those sites that are of great importance for the protection of soils, vegetation cover and watersheds.

There are a large number of environmental projects within the five ecoregions of this project's study area in Latin America as identified in attachment #3 of this document. Most of these efforts are focused on specific sites to further studies within already declared protected areas. Several of these efforts are site specific and may lack a global significant value in its role within a critical ecoregion. Similarly, because of the localized focus, conservation efforts will not address regional issues that require further analysis at an ecoregional or intra-ecoregional scale.

This project will coordinate and provide valuable scientific information to other projects in the region that include, as part of their activities, the identification of new sites for conservation. A description of current activities in each country follows.

Bolivia's government legislation contains numerous policies for conservation, sustainable resource use and preservation but their effectiveness is limited by politically driven inconsistencies which leads to

Colombia has great geographical contrast, resulting in a diversity of ecosystem species richness and endemism. The Choco province in the pacific coastal region, where 17% of the human population is located, is characterized by humid rain forest. Representatives of most of the ecosystems found in the country are present here, including mangrove forests and coral reefs, but biodiversity remains insufficiently identified. This project will complement other ecoregional biodiversity initiatives such as the Biopacifico Project (UNDP/GEF) in the Choco of Colombia, and a WWF project adjacent to the Choco and TNC's initiatives with local partners for the Cordillera Oriental Montane Forest and the Venezuelan Andes Montane Forest. Currently our efforts of collaboration have lead us to constant communication in efforts to exchange information, develop conjunct workshops to reach mutual goals, and other. The country's protected areas has a representation of mountain areas, particularly the Andean and Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, but the Choco Pacific region is the most under-represented in terms of conservation or sustainable development planning.

Ecuador has one of the highest levels of biodiversity per square kilometer and 25 different life zones. Five of Ecuador's 25 life zones are not under any type of protection or conservation management. The coastal plain, for instance, is one of the most unprotected areas of the Choco in Northern Ecuador and the mangroves and reefs found in this region are vital for coastal erosion prevention. The country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is still being developed and thus the time is opportune for the proposed project to assist in refining the focus of the NBSAP to include sites identified as habitat for globally significant biodiversity. Some of the projects within the area of study in Ecuador that represent an opportunity to collaborate are the Environmental Management Plan for Ecuador (UNDP/GEF/Environmental Ministry) as well as the Ecuador-Peru border line assessment (CDC Ecuador/ CDC Peru/ Pronaturaleza/ Fundacion Natura)

Within the Choco/Darien ecoregion in **Panama** there is insufficient representation of globally significant biodiversity in the protected areas as well as a lack of targeted conservation action and compatible development planning to ensure its protection. Nonetheless there are site specific projects whose approach, results, and lessons learned can mutually benefit our conservation efforts in this ecoregion. One such project is the Biodiversity Conservation of Darien through a Community Sustainable Development project (UNDP/GEF/INRENARE).

Paraguay has 26 wildlife official protected areas at a national level. Despite the large number in the Chaco (6) they comprise only 4% of the total area that is protected. In addition, the areas are not representative of the ecoregion's biological diversity and their management is not dictated by scientifically derived and sustainable plans to eliminate threats to biodiversity. Thus, there is a need for scientifically identified sites that will better protect critical and endangered species and help target realistic and compatible conservation actions. The proposed project will collaborate with one program in particular to strengthen conservation effort and avoid duplication; the Protection of Ecoregions of Global and Regional Importance (UNDP/GEF) in northern Chaco

This project aims to complement and not duplicate similar conservation efforts within these five critical ecoregions at three different levels:

1. Regionally: this project will provide direct support of information on areas not being studied. For example in Colombia, between this project, WWF's Northern Andes project, and other TNC efforts, all of Colombia will be mapped and analyzed at an ecoregional level. Similar efforts in other ecoregions are expected as well. 2. At a national level: all countries are developing their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP). This project again provides needed information within this ecoregions of efforts to implement each NBSAP. Additionally, our efforts will seek to do the same with different sectors of society (transportation, commerce, and others as well) with direct support from the "Coorporacion Andina de Fomento, CAF". 3. Locally at a National Parks/ Protected area Level: This project in coordination with each System of National Parks will Identify critical sites for protection with their respective best management alternatives in currently unprotected areas. Using these results along with USAID/TNC parks in peril program, a focus will be on not only the protected area but also its buffer zones and surrounding areas as well. This in itself will complement in many cases efforts being executed by each national entity.

Mutual collaboration is projected from current environmental efforts in working in these areas. One method of collaboration will be in the form of exchange of information. Informal mechanisms to share aerial photographs, satellite imagery and acquired maps have so far been established with WWF efforts in the Andean region. Proposed are also the development of new methods and mechanism at the regional level for dialogue, planning and conflict resolution. The main goal in working with other projects and institutions in the ecoregions is to provide all with direct access to information developed, and to reduce the cost of activities required by collaborating entities.

EXPECTED PROJECT OUTCOMES WITH ASSUMPTIONS AND CONTEXT

Project outcomes will include both the identification of sites with globally significant biodiversity *and* the proposal of protection strategies and conservation management practices for each location based upon the habitat, endangered and indicator species, and the analysis of threats to biodiversity. The information and data upon which management practices and protection strategies will be based will include ecological and biological data, geopolitical divisions, infrastructure, roads, population centers, and threats to biodiversity. Recommended conservation management alternatives will include the full range of options from developing new protected areas; establishing and demarcating biological corridors, private reserves, national forests, and extractive preserves; and implementing conservation easements. When appropriate, sustainable use activities will be implemented. Strategies for conservation and sustainable use will focus on national priorities while considering their impact at an ecoregional and global level.

Outcome 3

- ? An increased capacity of the CDCs to catalyze conservation actions at national level achieved.
- ? An enhancement in regional co-operation, networking, information exchange on the use of spatial technologies, protocols, common methodologies.
- ? Stakeholder support and promotion for science based decision making and application of project outputs.

ACTIVITIES AND FINANCIAL INPUTS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT CHANGES

The identification of these sites and the recommendation of appropriate conservation management alternatives and protection strategies will assist stakeholders with making decisions and implementing effective conservation actions. The Conservation Data Centers and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will coordinate the analysis and the development of conservation management alternatives and protection strategies amongst the countries, ecoregions and sites. A cost-effective site-based evaluation will be performed using detailed satellite images and database analysis of geographic and environmental information. Lastly, the implementation of this project by the in-country CDCs and their partners will widen local participation in the project and increase stakeholder and policymaker involvement in conservation management and policy.

Working together with their in-country partners and policymakers, TNC and the CDC's have planned the following activities to achieve the project outcomes listed above:

Outcome 1

- ? Compile critical data on biodiversity and threats to biodiversity from biological databases, map study and satellite images.
- ? Hold workshops to standardize methodology among the CDCs.
- ? Determine cartography analysis, geo-referencing, image classification, selection matrixes, databases and cartographic modeling. Produce preliminary assessments and verify secondary information or further investigation as needed.
- ? Prioritize critical areas based on scientific data, methodology, consultation and conservation imperatives.
- ? Produce evaluations of the global biodiversity benefits of the priority sites based on biological and ecological scientific analysis.

(Total Cost: US\$ 851,000; Cost to GEF US\$ 420,548)

Outcome 2

electronic format also for other key decision-makers, communities, NGOs, and international organizations.

- ? Organize workshops for key national and local government policymakers, NGOs, multilateral institutions and other stakeholders and present different prioritized management alternatives to achieve implementation of conservation actions.
- ? Develop exchanges between the CDCs and others in the scientific, conservation and political communities and reinforce biodiversity networks.
- ? Develop CDC role to catalyze in conservation plan implementation for continued management.

(Total Cost US\$ 322,000; Cost to GEF US\$ 106,083)

The Execution Plan will follow the steps of scientific mapping, data investigation and analysis as well as the development and assistance with the conservation action plans, public dissemination and policy site implementation. The project will seek to establish stronger links in each country between data collection, analysis and policy implementation by identifying the alternatives for conservation and sustainable use and the best opportunities for the productive landscape to be supportive of biodiversity conservation.

The project will be implemented in three phases over a period of three years in the following (summarized) steps.

In Phase I, the executing institutions will invest their initial efforts in compiling data from different sources such as governments (ministries, local environmental offices, municipalities), geographic institutes, NGOs, and past analysis. The project will compile 89 satellite images which will provide scientific data about the earth's surface. Interpretative work is then necessary using computer methodology. Base maps are used to provide the framework for more detailed thematic maps, which present information about many of scientific topics, and the maps will be digitized as needed. The satellite images and data will be classified into different groups to identify land use and vegetation types.

Project development workshops will be held to analyze the data and establish final standards for mapping analysis at 1:500,000 and 1:100,000 or 1:50,000 scales, identifying critical sites and discussing the final map production. At different stages of the development process, each CDC will hold information consultations to get key stakeholders involved in the process.

A matrix will be used to categorize the key sites outside national protected areas utilizing biological, ecological and conservation criteria. Biological criteria include the richness of vegetation types, endemism, fragileness of species and habitat, economic value, genetic resources and flag ship species. Ecological criteria include environmental services, water and watersheds, soils and carbon

areas per ecoregion, and will show: main roadways, population centers, contour lines, rivers and streams, political divisions and protected areas. Land use, vegetation cover and the priority conservation areas will all be derived from analysis and editing of the satellite images. At least six reports will be produced during the 36-month period from the first biannual report after six months to a final report that will compile the conclusions and recommendations including the best management strategies for the selected sites. Two other key reports will be produced; (1) a study detailing the results of a gap analysis exercise that examines sites of high biodiversity and conservation value; and (2) a comprehensive presentation of best conservation management alternatives for long-term conservation and land management of the selected project sites for intervention.

Phase III will be the diffusion of information to assist policy makers with decisions about conservation management actions and it is a critical step in the project's implementation. The recommended conservation alternatives will include the full range of options from developing new protected areas and biological corridors, conservation easements, private reserves, national forests, to extractive preserves and other sustainable use activities.

SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Sustainability

The sustainability of this project will depend significantly on the elements already incorporated into the project design such as the long-established working relationships with Government and the NGO community that the local Conservation Data Centers have developed in their work with local decision-makers. The involvement of key decision-makers during the project design will greatly assist in its implementation. The scientifically derived recommendations and products from the project provided to policymakers and the full support of The Nature Conservancy are also important to the project's sustainability.

Many of the CDCs are already located within and/or working with regional and national governmental departments, academic institutions or nationally known organizations. The CDCs have longstanding relationships with key players and partners who will participate in the project and assist with the implementation of the recommended conservation management alternatives and protection strategies. The **Bolivian CDC**, for instance, is a nonprofit institution that collaborates with other groups (FAN and PROMETA), to support conservation efforts and works closely with governmental offices, USAID, UNDP and local communities to implement biodiversity projects. The **Colombia CDC** is part of the Cooperacion Autonoma Regional Valle del Cauca (CVC), a governmental institution with influence within part of the Choco that has worked extensively with local communities and other regional corporations in the Pacific Coast. Other key players that will assist in the project implementation are the Ministry of the Environment, Institute Von Humboldt, FESE, and CATIE. In **Ecuador**, the **CDC** works

governmental entities among which is the DOA (Land Management Entity) and MAG (Park Management Entity)

The concrete scientific products from this project (geographic information and biological databases, conservation management alternatives, and protection strategies) will enhance the probability that the project recommendations will be implemented by decision-makers and key stakeholders.

The conservation management recommendations will include the most practical way to involve and meet the needs of the local communities and stakeholders for conservation management. The methodology to be implemented in the project will set technical and scientific standards that can be duplicated by other projects in other ecoregions in Latin America. Lastly, the results will be published in such a way that the data and management options can be easily accessed and updated.

Risk Assessment

One risk within this project is the difficulty of obtaining detailed scientific data over a large geographical area for regions with high biodiversity levels. This factor could make it difficult to identify the highest priority sites and recommend conservation management alternatives. This risk, however, has been addressed in the project design by utilizing TNC's strong science technology base, the proper set-up for the CDCs, and the group's ability to work with others to obtain this critical information.

The chance that the implementation of the recommended conservation management actions after the key global biodiversity sites have been determined may be delayed is an inherent risk. However, the project is designed to influence stakeholders and enable them to implement the recommendations by having key players continuously involved throughout the process and making the recommendations easily available to top decision- and policy-makers. In addition, TNC and the CDCs will promote the management alternatives to Government. The in-country consultation process will be implemented in collaboration with Cooperacion Andina de Fomento (CAF), as part of their regional environmental strategy. This will enable stakeholders to learn about the conservation management alternatives and protection strategies as well as conservation tools available for funding the protection and conservation of globally significant biodiversity in the newly identified sites. These tools include financial incentives for private landowners, watershed fees, biodiversity-friendly economic activity, and specialized financing mechanisms and innovations.

CAF is a multilateral financial institution that promotes sustainable development and regional integration by attracting capital resources for the provision of multiple financial services to public and private sectors of the countries involved. It acts as a financial intermediary, primarily attracting funds from industrialized countries to the region. It provides loans and lines of credit to financial entities and public and private banks to finance foreign trade and working capital. CAF also provides technical

governmental network. The development of a more detailed biological and geographical backbone, identification of sites, and the development of adequate management alternatives will undoubtedly benefit from CAF's collaboration.

Specifically, CAF is interested in incorporating this project's results onto many of their development activities in Latin America. For example, there is "The Condor Project" that focuses on highway construction and other infrastructure development in Andean Countries). Aside from CAF utilizing these results, CAF will also play an essential role bringing together adequate government and non-government personnel who may act upon this project's final recommendations. In the short run, this will be a critical factor in catalyzing conservation action in these five critical ecoregions.

TNC's long-term commitment to the CDCs and the conservation of globally significant ecoregions also ensures strong long-term support for sustainable conservation action. The Nature Conservancy helped establish the network of CDCs for scientifically evaluating biodiversity and strongly supports them with TNC's science-based conservation strategies, on-site protection and conservation policy options and economic tools. The Conservancy uses specialized techniques to document an area's biological richness and TNC's science-driven protection and conservation management plans are supported by the advanced technology and the kind of sophisticated and creative policies and incentives that are required to support biodiversity conservation and protection.

TNC's strong conservation presence in Latin America enables it to support non-governmental conservation organizations and government agencies, develop innovative financing mechanisms and leverage resources. TNC's Parks in Peril program, for example, has been the largest conservation initiative in Latin America, providing more than \$47 million to protect 21 million acres of habitat. TNC works closely with the CDCs, local community, governmental and NGO partners at more than 60 sites in Latin America, and helps them by providing or creating incentives for biodiversity protection and for implementing conservation alternatives. The Conservancy and its partners involve local communities in conservation by introducing them to environmentally sound ways to make a living, including them in planning and implementing conservation projects from which they can benefit, since conservation cannot succeed without local support.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

The success of this project lies upon the role of all stakeholders involved. The project has interacted with numerous stakeholders in each country. Among these are local NGOs, CDC partners that work within these ecoregions, government ministries, policymakers and decision-makers. The objective of this initial involvement was to inform them of intended project activities, solicit their input to the project design, and to solicit their participation and support for future actions. Further collaboration through continuous communication has led to combined efforts to acquire all essential information for

A few of the principal stakeholders so far involved include:

Bolivia: the Sustainable Development Ministry, Direction of Biodiversity; UNDP Bolivia; Conservation International Bolivia; Fundacion Amigos de la Naturaleza; PROMETA and others.

Colombia: Corporacion Valle del Cauca CVC (regional governmental agency where the CDC is located) and other Corporaciones of the Pacific Coast (Choco); the Environmental Ministry and the Instituto Von Humboldt (with the national mandate of biodiversity assessment); FESE; CATIE, WWF Colombia and others.

Ecuador: the Environmental Ministry and the General Environmental Directorate (formerly INEFAN); GEF Ecuador; several NGOs or Foundations: Natura, EcoCiencia, Maquipucuna, Arcoiris, Jatun Sacha, Antisana.

Panama: ANAM, ANCON (the leading environmental NGO, where the CDC is located).

Paraguay: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPNVS, where the CDC is located); Department of Environmental Ordinance DOA; GTZ Germany; Fundacion Desde el Chaco; and Fundacion Moises Bertoni.

Peru: CONAM (National Council for the Environment); Pronaturaleza; the Forestry Department of La Molina University (where the CDC is located); and WWF Peru among others.

FINANCING PLAN AND INCREMENTAL COST ASSESSMENT

Total costs for implementing the medium size project are estimated at \$1,429,997 of which \$680,000 (or 47.6%) will be co-funding from the CDCs, TNC and CAF. Further co-financing will come from NASA in the form of Landsat 7 Satellite Images for satellite information update throughout the project (expected co-financing value is of 60,000).

Baseline Scenario

Each Conservation Data Center provides critical information through their expertise and knowledge to support the adoption of sound conservation policies within their jurisdiction. One of the objectives of the CDC Network is to leverage conservation actions at the regional level. Working through science based projects, The Nature Conservancy provides training, technical support and scientific advice to the CDC Network.

Current efforts by the CDCs within the five priority one ecoregions are limited to a few scattered projects that are being completed or are in an early development stage. In Panama, the CDC is finalizing the “Management for Biodiversity and Cultural Conservation of Darien”. This is a binational effort with Fundacion Natura of Colombia through a US \$250,000 grant from the McArthur Foundation. The CDC Paraguay is finishing a Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA) of Defensores del Chaco National Park

The CDC efforts are site specific and often provide no global benefits, per se, within a critical ecoregion. Similarly, because of the localized focus, the methodology, objectives, maps and the scale at which each of these projects works varies from project to project creating an incompatibility factor among them. As a result there is an absence of critical scientific information for regional use. Policy making at the local level will not have the information required to implement actions that will provide a regional and global impact vis-à-vis the conservation of globally significant biodiversity. These issues limit the potential role of the CDC to act as a catalyst for conservation action that provides a broader regional and global benefit and subjects the CDC to work within a framework of already established guidelines at scattered single site projects. Although there are many conservation efforts scattered throughout the landscape that provide an important conservation benefit, a greater focus to unify efforts (methodology, scales, cartographic information, regional focus, global focus) is imperative to efficiently protect globally significant biodiversity.

Future projects will be developed and implemented within these priority one ecoregions regardless of this project's existence or not. Conservation efforts will continue to be implemented in the region absent essential ecological information and a coherent regional framework informed by much needed scientific information. But it is very likely that their objectives, guidelines, methodology and scales will continue to be dissimilar. These factors combined with the lack of a strong regional and global perspective limits the opportunity to catalyze conservation action that provides a global environmental benefit by conserving the sites with the greatest biodiversity values.

This proposed MSP brings about several activities that provide a means on which to narrow the gap between current CDC efforts in the region. Specifically, these actions addressing the inadequacies are:

- The development of regional and local maps at scales of 1:500000 for the ecoregion and 1:100000 – 1:50000 locally. This increments upon a unified regional scale giving each localized project a regional perspective that can only bring about positive outcomes.
- The analysis of sites outside “currently protected areas”. These sites contrasted with currently available information on national parks and other protected areas, results in enhanced National Systems of Protected Areas upon which further conservation action may occur.
- Each best management alternative presented for a site is based on both regional/global importance as well as the significance and role of each site within a local perspective.
- Dissemination of information. This MSP results will provide national and local conservation efforts within these 5 critical ecoregions with a method on which to positively impact biological diversity of global importance while acting locally.

GEF Alternative

The proposed project will provide a detailed evaluation of globally important sites that contain the most important biodiversity in already-identified important ecoregions, along with a prioritized list of best

During this project's development and implementation, stakeholder examination and input into these site evaluations will support the recommendations that result and assist in the actual implementation of biodiversity protection or sustainable use in specific sites. Disseminating this output (through workshops and other means) in-country to communities, NGO's, scientists, government officials and international donors and investors (including the private sector) will undoubtedly help guide current and future decisions about these sites. The conservation of globally significant biodiversity in targeted locations in five globally significant ecoregions will be the ultimate goal achieved in the GEF alternative and a replicable process (with identifiable results) for the scientific, NGO, government and other sectors for these and other ecoregions will be an additional benefit. Furthermore, this project not only provides a prioritization of sites and their best management alternatives but also a regional methodological framework where information can be unified in scales and focus within all ecoregions allowing regional conservation decision making a feasible option.

Table 3 . BUDGET (US Dollars)

BUDGET					
Components	GEF	TNC	CDCs	CAF	TOTAL
PDF A	25000	5000			\$30,000
1. Personnel	117300	20000	199000	0	\$336,300
2. Research (Subcontracts)	337000	0	0	0	\$337,000
3. Training	72000	36000	31000	65000	\$204,000
4. Equipment (and materials)	106000	222000	29000	0	\$357,000
5. Travel	20000	0	0	0	\$20,000
6. Monitoring and Reporting	30000	0	0	0	\$30,000
7. Miscellaneous:	42697	5000	3000	65000	\$115,697
TOTAL	\$749,997	\$288,000	\$262,000	\$130,000	\$2,830,994

Budget footnotes	
1. Personnel	1 technical director: \$30,000 per year during 3 years 1 technical assistant: \$ 10,000 per year during 3 years
2. Research Activities (Subcontracts)	CDC research activities. These activities are a critical and the most costly part of this project. Among them are digitalization, satellite image interpretation, data analysis, biodiversity assessment and prioritization of sites. Additional subcontracting will be minimal but necessary (project writer, Digitizers, others). Mapping (labor-intensive task). Development of conservation strategies.
3. Training	1 workshop: Standardize methods, Survey current information 1 workshop: Analyze research results, develop best management alternatives.
4. Equipment and materials	RS data (satellite images, digitized maps, lab material, computer equipment). These materials are the backbone of the project. Biological, ecological, and socio-economic data relies upon the accuracy of these developed materials. Aside from its high cost, these require several months to complete; making them an important, time consuming and expensive activity of the project.
5. Travel	trips for workshop and technical director travel
6. Monitoring and Reporting	periodic results preparation, TNC assistance
7. Miscellaneous:	CD rom development and public dissemination, other public dissemination.
TNC Co-financing Budget Footnotes	
1. Personnel	1 TNC employee dedicating ¼ of his/her time for 3 years
3. Training	Satellite image development, GIS, mapping.
4. Equipment and materials	GIS lab equipment and software (use and acquisition). Satellite image acquisition
7. Miscellaneous:	CD rom development and Public dissemination

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The CDCs will solely execute the project activities using both technical staff contracted for this project and their own (identified) technical experts committed exclusively to the project. The Nature Conservancy will provide technical and scientific assistance at different stages of implementation. The CDCs will be in regular contact with Dr. Xavier Silva, Director of Conservation Science at TNC and managed by a Technical Coordinator contracted for the project based at TNC’s Regional Technical Unit (RTU) in Quito, Ecuador. Table 4, further analyzed in section “activities and financial input needed to implement project”, summarizes a workplan of activities to implement the project.

Table 4. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 36 months (3 years)	Phase I 18 ms			Phase II 12m		Phase III 6m
PROJECT PHASES & ACTIVITIES	MONTHS					
	6	12	18	24	30	36
1. Compile, analyze and integrate satellite derived and other map data, ecological and threat data from multiple sources and produce scientifically credible biodiversity assessment.	██████████					
2. Prioritize global biodiversity key sites. Develop management action plans with stakeholder consultation.				██████████		
3. Publication & Public dissemination of results, workshops and assist with recommended site actions.	████████████████████				██████████	

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

Public involvement is included throughout the project through stakeholder participation, consultation and information dissemination. The responsibility for ensuring public involvement will be based in country by the CDCs and other actors to help ensure the sustainability of the project is country-driven.

Stakeholder participation:

Throughout this project’s development, participation strategies will include different players from local communities, scientists, and government environmental organizations to local and international NGOs and donor organizations. This contact will be oriented towards involving community players and

promote the awareness sustainability strengthening activities throughout the project. The ability to manage conservation sites based on scientific data to protect biodiversity and natural resources has been enhanced by increased political interest in ecosystems, improved conservation technologies (such as database management, GIS, and Remote Sensing), and increased information dissemination to key stakeholders.

Consultation:

Consultation will occur through information exchanges among the CDCs, governments, and other stakeholders who together will provide opportunities for project design input. The ongoing consultation should strengthen country ownership and accountability for project outcomes, build partnerships between the project and its stakeholders and utilize the skills of NGOs, local groups and the private sector in the project implementation.

The project results will also allow the creation of a portfolio for conservation actions of regional and local effect and provide appropriate recommendations. This project will facilitate consultation information through formal and informal mechanisms, which may include coordination with other projects and data sharing, seminars and workshops and other means. During project development, linkages will be established with existing activities and other currently planned projects such as the WWF Project for the Northern Andes. The research activities carried out by local scientific organizations will do it in a participatory and consultative approach designed to build consensus for conservation action.

The results of this consultation will be similar across the board for all CDCs. As is the case in Paraguay, when identifying and prioritizing sites, officials from DOA (land management agency) will participate and their input will be of much value to the CDC as well as to DOA in terms of receiving much needed information.

Information Dissemination:

The information from this MSP will be disseminated widely with public notification and access to the results. These results of the project will be shared with a variety of organizations and the civil society via publications produced in conventional and electronic format (CD-ROM and Internet).

The project's CDC network will facilitate information sharing while contributing to the development of a standard methodology for regional landscape ecology and gap analysis. The development of these products within the CDCs involved will lead to a broader and more cost-effective approach for assisting decision-makers and other key players. The Corporacion Andina de Fomento (CAF) will help support- among others, the process of result dissemination for this project (See Budget) in order to influence key government decision-makers.

One way of making it easier for stakeholders such as policymakers to be involved will be to provide

to make a landscape or site-specific decision impacting a particular site with full information about the environmental impacts and the conservation and the economic development options.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

The Nature Conservancy has an established monitoring and evaluation system for both its own and partner projects and personnel based on timetables, project indicators, and performance standards. The TNC Project Director and CDC Technical Coordinator will oversee a monthly internal monitoring of this project. The project results will be periodically presented, evaluated, and the project's indicators assessed. If needed, modifications to activity plans will be proposed by TNC's technical personnel. The MSP Monitoring and Evaluation Plan would build on the internal and external systems described above. Detailed performance benchmarks were agreed to complement the overall project objectives, outcomes, and activity indicators presented in the MSP summary sheets. These performance benchmarks will provide the basis for disbursement of GEF funds during MSP implementation. TNC will report regularly on project execution within this agreed framework.

A total of six reports of results (two per year) are planned during the development phase of the project, thus implying 5 interim reports and one final. These reports are to be presented to UNEP and to the different national stakeholders for feedback and comments. There are also two internal workshops planned, with the participation of the technical staff of the CDCs and The Nature Conservancy, for technical adjustments and internal operation adjustments of the project.

During the development of the project, the Consortium of The Nature Conservancy and the CDCs will interact continuously with UNEP. An important part of the monitoring and evaluation will be the documentation of the public and stakeholder involvement throughout the project and within all the activities. The monitoring will also include full reporting on the design and implementation of the public involvement activities including financial, technical and information support to encourage the participation of communities, NGO, the government and the private sector and assist in the conservation alternative actions.

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ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1. INFORMATION ON MSP PROPOSERS

ATTACHMENT 2. BUDGET - GEF

ATTACHMENT 3. ECOREGIONS OTHER PROJECTS WORKING WITHIN IDENTIFIED

ATTACHMENT 1. INFORMATION ON MSP PROPOSERS

- The Bolivia CDC (now called TROPICO) was established on April 23, 1987. It is an independent NGO and its Director is Dr. Ximena Aramayo. It has raised environmental awareness and positively influenced conservation actions at local, national, and international levels. Its more important publications for conservation and biodiversity in Bolivia include: Diagnostico de la diversidad Biologica de Bolivia (Diagnostic of Biodiversity in Bolivia); Catalogo de Legislacion Ambiental (Environmental Legislation Catalogue); Guia para la Categorizacion de Vertebrados Amenazados (A Guide to Threatened Vertebrates in Bolivia), and El Libro Rojo de los Vertebrados de Bolivia (The Red Book of Vertebrates of Bolivia). The CDC wants to identify Bolivia's top priority global biodiversity sites in order to protect the country's most critical habitat and implement management action for these locations.
- The Colombia CDC was created on June 18, 1984 as part of a regional governmental agency (Corporacion Regional Autonoma Valle del Cauca). Directed by Eduardo Velasco, this CDC is part of a government agency for the western region of Colombia. As such, the CDC provides all biological, ecological and geographic information for environmental and developmental projects implemented by the regional government. One of the most important products produced by the CDC is a list of species biodiversity within the Choco; a list of threatened species, and ecological assessments for projects implemented in their jurisdiction. As part of an implementing government agency the CDC has more influence with policymakers for the implementation of the priority site conservation action plans.
- The Ecuador CDC was funded as an independent NGO on December 16, 1993 and is directed by Dr. Pedro Ponce. Since its founding this organization has positioned itself among the most prestigious environmental groups in the country. One of its achievements has been the nomination of the area Mache Chindul as an ecological reserve. This was aided by the CDC's scientific research that provided critical data to the policy makers. The CDC has assessed protected areas, such as: Podocarpus, Yasuni, Antisana, and Machalilla.
- The Panama CDC was established May 15th, 1987, as the Science Division of ANCON, a leading NGO in Panama directed by Dr. Dilia Santa Maria. The CDC forms the backbone of ANCON, which provides information for Panama's environmental policy implementation. For instance, the US government used ANCON's analysis for the environmental assessment of the Panama canal. ANCON has been one of the most instrumental Panamanian Environmental Legislative groups and has developed some of the most important environmental projects in the country. This project will identify priority sites in Panama and actions to protect its global diversity.
- The Paraguay CDC is housed within the Department of Wildlife and directed by Ms. Nelida Rivarola. Like the Colombian CDC, one of its greatest advantages is its location within an implementing governmental agency. The Paraguay CDC works closely with the Department of Environmental Ordinance (DOA) and the German Overseas support Agency GTZ for biodiversity protection. Focal site identification within unprotected areas will help focus both the government and international donors on priority biodiversity action.

ATTACHMENT 2. BUDGET - GEF

PROJECT EXPENDITURE TABLE (GEF FUNDS) US\$						
PROJECT PHASES & ACTIVITIES	6 MONTHS		12 MONTHS		18 MONTHS	
1. Compile, analyze and integrate satellite derived and other map data, ecological and threat data from multiple sources and produce scientifically credible biodiversity assessment.	Personnel	19550	Personnel	19550	Personnel	19550
	Subcontracts	60333	Subcontracts	60333	Subcontracts	60333
	Training	16000	Training	10000	Training	10000
	Equipment	106000	Equipment		Equipment	
	Travel	10000	Travel		Travel	
	Monitoring and Evaluation	5000	Monitoring and Evaluation	5000	Monitoring and Evaluation	5000
	Miscellaneous:	4633	Miscellaneous:	4633	Miscellaneous:	4633
2. Prioritize global biodiversity key sites. Develop management action plans with stakeholder consultation.						
3. Publication & Public dissemination of results, work- shops and assist with recommended site actions.						
SUBTOTAL	\$221,516		\$99,\$9,633516		\$99,516	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE TABLE (GEF FUNDS) US\$

PROJECT PHASES & ACTIVITIES	24 MONTHS		30 MONTHS		36 MONTHS	
	1. Compile satellite, biodiversity, ecological and threats data; develop scientific methods, models and data; produce global biodiversity assessments.					
2. Prioritize global biodiversity key sites. Develop management action plans with stakeholder consultation.	Personnel	19550	Personnel	19550		
	Subcontracts	52000	Subcontracts	52000		
	Training	16000	Training	10000		
	Equipment		Equipment			
	Travel	10000	Travel			
	Monitoring and Evaluation	5000	Monitoring and Evaluation	5000		
	Miscellaneous:	4633	Miscellaneous:	4633		
3. Publication & Public dissemination of results, work- shops and assist with recommended site actions.					Personnel	19550
					Subcontracts	52000
					Training	10000
					Equipment	
					Travel	
					Monitoring and Evaluation	5000
					Miscellaneous:	19533
SUBTOTAL	\$107,183		\$91,183		\$106,083	
GRAND TOTAL \$ 724,997						

ATTACHMENT 3, OTHER PROJECTS WORKING WITHIN IDENTIFIED ECOREGIONS

PANAMA:

Project:	Donor:	Implemented By	Cost - US Dollars	Description
Biodiversity Conservation of Darien through a community sustainable development	PNUD/GEF	INRENARE	US\$ 856000	Gather as much information as possible on biodiversity of Darien specially within protected areas. It is also involved in delineating boundaries and infrastructure development within protected areas as well as implementing a sustainable development program with in area of influence of the Bio Darien Project.
Management for Biodiversity and Cultural conservation of Darien	McArthur Foundation	ANCON/ INRENARE/ Ministerio de Colombia/ Fundacion Natura de Colombia	US\$ 250000	
Agricultural Frontier	European Union	Private Consultants		
Conservation of the eagle <i>Harpia hapyja</i>	Fundacion Preregrina/ NRENARE	INRENARE		
Rural Sustainable Development of Darien	Agencia de Cooperacion Suiza	MIDA		
Rural poverty and Sustainable Development	World Bank/GEF	INRENARE/MIDA		
Investments of Darien National Park	INRENARE	INRENARE		
Catival Management in Darien	ITTO	INRENARE		
Shrimp Species Conservation in wetlands of Punta Patiño	RAMSAR	ANCON		
Land tenure Management Plan of Alta del Bayano Watershed	IDB	Berger-Delca (Consortium)	US\$ 11 000 000	Develop land tenure within the watershed of Lake Bayano and propose projects on social development, industrial (forestry, cattle ranching, ecotourism), and environmental within this same area.

COLOMBIA:

Project:	Donor:	Implemented By	Cost -US Dollars	Description
Biopacifico	GEF/PNUD/ Ministerio del Medio Ambiente WWF Fundacion Natura	WWF Fundacion Natura		There were 4 distinct programs associated with this project whose actions included: Environmental Education, Public awareness, Sustainable Development, Information Management, Decision Making, Land Distribution and Biodiversity Conservation within the region of Choco Biogeografico.
Parques del Pacifico	Netherlands		> 1 000 000.00	Development of Management plans of and actions in areas of the pacific coast
Corredor Biologico NAYA	GEF	Fundacion Proselva, Universidad del Cauca CI-Colombia	25K + 725K?	Development of a management plan of the biological corridor humid tropical forest of the Pacific (Corredor NAYA)

Museo vivo del Choco Biogeografico	Looking for funds	Codechoco Instituto de investigaciones del Pacifico.		To identify sustainable management alternatives based on ecotourism
Proyecto de Manglares en Colombia Fase II				Identify and propose alternatives for use and management of mangroves.
MIZC (Manejo integrado de zonas costeras)		CRC, Corponariño, Invemar, IIAP	700K + 600K possibly	Develop Integrated management of coastal zones within the Departments of Cauca and Nariño

PARAGUAY:

Project:	Donor:	Implemented By	Cost -US Dollars	Description
Parks in Peril	USAID/TNC	DPNVS/The Nature Conservancy		
Protection of Ecoregions of Global and Regional importance in Paraguay	GEF/UNDP	DPNVS/ECB		Identification of potential conservation sites in the Chaco
Land Distribution in the Occidental Region or Chaco	BGR/DOA	ENAPRENA		Land use management in the Chaco
Sustainable development of the Chaco in Paraguay				Management strategies for achieving sustainable development in the Chaco of Paraguay.

ECUADOR:

Project:	Donor:	Implemented By	Cost -US Dollars	Description
Sustainable Use of Biological Resources II	USAID/ CARE			Community based forest management, ecotourism, land tilting, conflict resolution, and ecological and ethnobotany studies
Management of territory between Ecuador and Colombia		Ministry of foreign affairs		Management of land of interest to both Ecuador and Colombia as well as to indigenous groups in the region
Protected areas within the Eastern Cordillera Real Montane Forest Ecoregion	USAID/ National Public Institutions/ German Technical Cooperation/ Dutch Embassy	NGOs		Several management plan arrangements of protected areas within this region
National System of Protected Areas	GEF	NGOs		Political, institutional, and technical strengthening the protection of Natural Reserves by empowering NGOs
Environment Management Plan	UNDP			Environmental management plan in the buffer zone of a road crossing the Choco region in Northern Ecuador.
Plan Ambiental Choco Geografico Ecuatoriano (1ra fase)	UNDP	Ministerio de Obras Publicas, Consultants	1000000	Socio Economic Diagnostic, biophysics diagnostic, land tenure, forest extraction plan, management of forest reserves.
SUBIR-CARE (1 st and 2 nd phase)	USAID	CARE, Fund Ecociencia, Fund Jatun-Sacha		
Desarrollo de la Estrategia de Manejo Sustentable de la Zona de Amortiguamiento de la Reserva Cotacachi-Cayapas	INEFAN-GEF	Fundacion Natura, CIDESA, CCD, FUNDEAL	350,000	Diagnostic of forestry inventory and biodiversity, deforestation impact study, community capacity building, development of community incentives and or productive

				activities, management plan of the area
Plan de Manejo de la Reserva Ecologica Cayapas-Mataje	INEFAN-GEF			
Land Tenure Study (Cotacachi Cayapas and Cayapas-Mataje)	INEFAN-GEF			
Plan de Manejo para la Reserva Ecologica Cayambe Coca	SUBIR II-AID	Fundacion Antisana, Fundacion Rumicocha	400,000	Investigation, Equipping and strengthening the community park rangers, community development, micro-enterprises, land tenure
Condor Bioreserve	AID-TNC	Fundacion Antisana	1 250 000	Management plan of Antisana ecological reserve, watershed management plan, community strengthening, indicator species study.
Plan de Manejo del Parque Nacional Sangay	Netherlands gov.		1 839 000	Scientific studies, community strengthening, management plan.
Plan de Desarrollo Sustentable de la Region indigena AWA	European Community/ Ecuador	UTEPA	1000000	Socio economic diagnostic, biophysics diagnostic, capacity building, community organization, health, productive projects, reintroduction of ancient culture
Proyecto Gran Sumaco (Parque Nacional sumaco-Napo Galeras) 1 st phase.	German assistance Ecuador gov.		1 000 000	Park operations development, Debt for nature swap
Programa Podocarpus (Programa de Apoyo a la Conservacion del Parque Nacional Podocarpus)	Embassy of Netherland	DHV Consultants, INEFAN, GOs, Local NGOs,	4 131 000	Management and park administration, strengthening of data center of the University in Loja and of local NGOs, management, investigation, capacity building, environmental education, management of forestry resources.
Proyecto Plurinacional (Ecuador, Colombia) de Cooperacion Amazonica: Plan de Ordenamiento y Manejo de las Cuencas de los rios San Miguel y Putumayo (nororiente ecuatoriano e incluye las partes altas de las cuencas con bosques montanos)		ECORAE, SINCHI	23 212 110	Forest resource management, strengthening of protected areas, development of ecotourism, environmental education, research

PERU:

Project:	Donor:	Implemented By	Cost -US Dollars	Description
Manu National Park	PROFONANPE			Management plan within Manu National Park, Abiseo National Park, Machupicchu National Park, Yanachaga National Park in the Yungas of Peru
Management of the establishment of conservation sites within the cloud forests in the North Earstern region of Peru	WWF/ IUCN	CDC-Peru		Biodiversity Assessment within this regions
Biodiversity Assesment of National Sanctuary Tabaconas-Namballe	Fundacion Pronaturaleza	CDC-Peru		
Human Activity assessment within protected areas in Amazonia Peruana	Economic European Community	CDC-Peru		Methodology for evaluating human impact
Biodiversity Conservation Status in North East Peru	Rockefeller Foundation			
Assessment of protected Forests		CDC-Peru		
Proyecto especial Jaen-San Ignacio-Bagua (PEJSIB)	Gov.	INADE	32 million/year	Integrate the economies of Jaen, San Ignacio, and Bagua Provinces in part through focusing on sustainable use of

				natural resources
Proyecto especial Alto Mayo (PEAM)	Gov	INADE	27 million/year	One of the objectives is to improve upon employment finding an equilibrium between socioeconomic development and the environment
Poyecto especial Pichis-Palcazu (PEPP)	Gov	INADE	102 million/year	The environmental component takes into consideration reforestation, forest management, natural resource evaluation. Promote the development of the "Selva Central" contributing to improving the lives of the populations in it.
Proyecto Especial Alto Huallaga (PEAH)	Gov.	INADE	57 million/year	Community Development within Alto Huallaga and Aguaytia
Proyecto especial Huallaga Central y Baño Mayo (PEHCBM)	Gov.	INADE	79 million/year	The environmental component takes into consideration reforestation, evaluate natural resources.
The Cordillera del Condor, Region of Ecuador and Peru: A Biological Assessment.	WWF	WWF-Peru	unavailable	
Parque Nacional rio Abiseo		Asociacion Peruana para la conservacion de la Naturaleza (APECO)		
Santuario Nacional Rio Abiseo		APECO		
Apoyo al Parque Nacional Yanachaga-Chemillen Alrededores del Parque	Netherlands	Pronaturaleza	30,000	Protection of high altitude amazon forest within the Central Jungle "Selva Central" of Peru
Apoyo al Santuario Historico Machu Picchu		Profonanpe		One of thee parts relates to the integrated management of the historic sanctuary Machu Picchu
Parque Nacional Ampay		Instituto de Desarrollo y Medio Ambiente, (IDMA)		
Conservacion de Ecosistemas Tropiclaes y uso Sostenible de los Recursos Naturales en la Zona Reservada Tambopata-Candamo, Departamentos de Madre de Dios y Puno, Peru"	Conservation International	Conservation International	1,345 541 us dollars	Conserve Biodiversity and maintain the continuity of the ecological processes within a representative area of a Humid Tropical Forest in the south western Peru.

BOLIVIA:

Project:	Donor:	Implemented By	Cost -US Dollars	Description
Cotapata National Park	FONAMA	CDC-Bolivia		Development of community management plans for the communities near by.
Ecotourism Cotapata National Park		CDC-Bolivia		Ecotourism within the bufferzone of Cotapata National Park
Socio-economic and Biodiversity Assessment of Pilon and Lajas Biosphere Reserve and Madidi National Park		CDC-Bolivia		Biodiversity and Socio-economic assessment within the Bolivian Yungas.
National Level Projects				
1. Formulación de la Estrategia Nacional de Biodiversidad y Plan de Acción para su implementación	GEF/PNUD	Dirección General de Biodiversidad	\$US 265,752	1) Develop the ENBD as a process to develop Biodiversity Conservation in perpetuity 2) Develop a strategy and action plan that identifies key stake-holders

2. Apoyo para la preparación de un marco nacional sobre bioseguridad	GEF/PNUMA	Dirección General de Biodiversidad	\$US 98,000	Improve and assure the safety of biotechnology in order to protect human health and augment the health of the natural environment
3. Fortalecimiento para la aplicación del reglamento de la Decisión 391 del acuerdo de Cartagena	BMZ - GTZ	Dirección General de Biodiversidad	\$US 250,000	Institutions and public organizations and the civil society apply in an effective manner the norms to access genetic resources.
4. Proyecto de Conservación de la Biodiversidad en Bolivia	GEF - Gobierno de Suiza	Dirección General de Biodiversidad	Aprox. 8 millones de dólares	Contribute to biodiversity conservation through 8 protected areas and the Central Government.
5. GEF II para el Servicio Nacional de Areas protegidas	GEF	SERNAP		In Development
Projects within the Bolivian Yungas				
1. Mapa de vegetación del Parque Nacional Carrasco		Centro Universitario de Ecología, Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo	50,000	Vegetation map of Carrasco National Park
2. Fortalecimiento del Parque Nacional Carrasco	Empresa petrolera Chaco	Parque Nacional Kaa Iya		Construction of two park ranger stations
3. Programa de monitoreo para el Parque Nacional Carrasco	Universidad de Leicester?	Centro Universitario de Ecología, Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo		Develop a monitoring plan of the park
4. Programa forestal para el trópico de Cochabamba y plan del trópico	Varios financiadores entre los que aparecen: FAO, GTZ, PDAR			Activities include Carrasco National Park, Indigenos Territo y Isiboro National Park. Objectives were not available
4. Programa Araucaria ha desarrollarse en la Reserva Nacional de Fauna Ulla Ulla (RNFUU)	Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional (AECI)	Servicio Nacional de Areas Protegidas	Su aprobación final aún está pendiente	Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Human Development, and institutional strengthening in the area of interest.
5. Plan de conservación y uso sostenible de la agrobiodiversidad de raíces y tubérculos andinos en la RNFUU	Centro Internacional de la Papa (CIP) y la Cooperación Suiza para el Desarrollo (COSUDE)			Knowledge assessment of the study species, capacity and validation of community knowledge rights.
6. Implementación de la Reserva de la Biósfera Territorio Indígena Pilón Lajas, Amazonía Boliviana, fase II	Unión Europea	Veterinarios sin Fronteras	Aprox. 1.138.505	To contribute to the protected area management plan.
7. Modelos integrales para el uso y la protección de la biodiversidad de la RBTI Pilón Lajas	Embajada de Holanda/DGIS	Veterinarios sin Fronteras	Aprox. 1.728.829	
8. Sistemas agroforestales en la zona de amortiguamiento de la RBTI Pilón Lajas	Reino Unido/DFID	Veterinarios sin Fronteras	Aprox. 1,286,055	
9. Proyecto de Areas Protegidas	Embajada de Holanda	Servicio Nacional de Areas Protegidas	Aprox. 1,000,000/año	To contribute to the work of several protected areas (Ctopapata, TIPNIS, Madidi, Carrasco, Amboro, EBB, Kaa Lya)
10. Monitoreo y Evaluación de áreas prioritarias para la conservación in el SudOeste de la Amazonía	WWF	WWF	Aprox. \$US 315,000	Develop a conservation network that is viable with in the priority areas in the south west of Bolivia's amazon.

11. Planificación ecoregional del SudOeste de la Amazonía	WWF	WWF	\$US 40,000	Develop a follow up on the activities between Peru, Bolivia and Brazil based on each country's diagnostic
12. Desarrollo de Programas de conservación para áreas prioritarias: Reserva Manuripi Heath, corredores biológicos Amboró-Madidi y Guaporé-Mamoré	WWF	WWF	\$US 150,000	Develop Conservation programs in areas identified (Manupiri Reserve, Amboro-Madidi and Guapore-Mamore corridors)
Projects within the Bolivian Chaco				
1. Plan de Manejo del Parque Nacional Kaa Iya	USAID	Servicio Nacional de Areas Protegidas	190,000	
2. Fondo Fiduciario para el Parque Kaa Iya	Empresas petroleras que construyeron el gasoducto Bolivia-Brasil	Servicio Nacional de Areas Protegidas	1,000,000	Seed fund to achieve financial sustainability in the the area.
3. Proyecto Manejo de Zonas de Amortiguamiento (PMZA)	GTZ	Servicio Nacional de Areas Protegidas		Designed for developing signs and educate in the area
Cotapata National Park	FONAMA	CDC-Bolivia		Development of community management plans for the communities near by.
Ecotourism Cotapata National Park		CDC-Bolivia		Ecotourism within the bufferzone of Cotapata National Park
Socio-economic and Biodiversity Assessment of Pilon and Lajas Biosphere Reserve and Madidi National Park		CDC-Bolivia		Biodiversity and Socio-economic assessment within the Bolivian Yungas.

NOTE: - When data was not available, cells were left inbla

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República de Panamá
Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales Renovables

Panamá, República de Panamá

Panamá, 20 de mayo de 1998
DIRC-0079

Ingeniero
ALFREDO BROCE
Director de Cooperación Técnica
Ministerio de Planificación y
Política Económica
E. S. D.

Señor Director:

Tengo el agrado de dirigirme a Usted en relación al Proyecto "Áreas Críticas para la Conservación dentro de las Ecoregiones Prioritarias de América Latina", presentado a nuestra institución por la Asociación Nacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza-ANCON, con el interés de lograr su financiamiento con fondos del Programa "Medium Size Grant Initiative del GEF".

El INRENARE como Punto Focal del GEF ha analizado el proyecto, certificando que el mismo se enmarca dentro de los lineamientos de la Estrategia de Biodiversidad del País y es complementario de iniciativas que a nivel regional realiza la Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo (CCAD) en la materia.

En este sentido otorgamos el aval para que el proyecto sea presentado al GEF, a través de los mecanismos ya establecidos.

Atentamente,

Lucy Miriel Endara
LUCY MIRIEL ENDARA
Directora General

c.c. Dr. Ivan Valdespino



1999: Año de la Reversión del Canal a Panamá

"Naturaleza Protegida Futuro Seguro"

**GRUPO DE COOPERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL****MINISTERIO DEL MEDIO AMBIENTE**

Fecha: PROYECTO 18152 AN No Radicación: 3111-2-14205

Trámite: CORRESPONDENCIA INFORMATIVA

Acuerdo: PRESENTACION, Paises: Colombia

Origen: GEF

Santafé de Bogotá, julio 27 d

Señor

MOHAMED T. EL-ASHRY

Presidente

Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial - GEF -

Washington

U.S.A.

Referencia: Proyecto "Áreas Críticas para la Conservación dentro de las Ecorregiones Prioritarias de América Latina"

Estimado señor El-Ashry:

El Ministerio del Medio Ambiente de la República de Colombia es condecorado de la intención por parte del PNUMA de impulsar ante la entidad que Usted preside el proyecto regional "Áreas Críticas para la Conservación dentro de las Ecorregiones Prioritarias de América Latina", el cual potencialmente se desarrollaría en nuestro país y otras naciones como Bolivia, Ecuador, Panamá y Paraguay.

Sería de sumo interés para Colombia que este proyecto se pusiera en marcha, pues coincide con las políticas de manejo que viene implementando en el Ministerio del Medio Ambiente y la Corporación Autónoma Regional del Valle del Cauca.

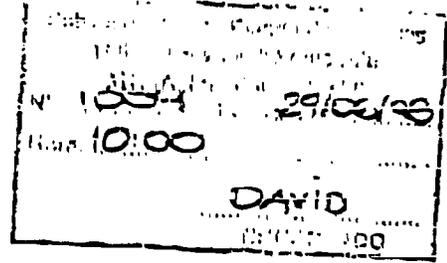
Cordial saludo,


YOLANDA RAMIREZ PRADO
Coordinadora Grupo de Cooperación Internacional

Copia: Archivo GEF general.



PRESIDENCIA DE LA REPUBLICA
Secretaría Técnica de Identificación



PRICDD/Nº 1175 98

Asunción, 25 de junio de 1998

Señor
MARIO SALZMANN, Coordinador Residente
Sistema de las Naciones Unidas
Ciudad

De nuestra consideración:

Tenemos el agrado de dirigirnos a usted, en nuestro carácter de Punto Focal Operativo del Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial (GEF), con el objeto de manifestar el apoyo oficial a proyectos presentados por instituciones nacionales.

Dichos proyectos fueron presentados al Grupo Nacional de Trabajo en fecha 29 de marzo pasado, con la finalidad de obtener su opinión y observación del mismo. Los proyectos son los siguientes:

- "Plan de Acción y Estrategia Nacional para la Conservación de la Biodiversidad e Informe al Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica".
- "Áreas Críticas para la Conservación dentro de las Ecorregiones Prioritarias de América Latina": Viceministerio de Estado de Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente.
- "Protección y Uso Sostenible de la Biodiversidad por las Comunidades Indígenas Mbya-Guaraní de la Región Oriental del Paraguay": AXIAL Naturaleza & Cultura.
- "Preparación de la Primera Comunicación Nacional para la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas para el Cambio Climático": Viceministerio de Estado de Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente.

Le solicitamos que el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo PNUD realice las gestiones pertinentes ante el GEF para la implementación de los Proyectos.

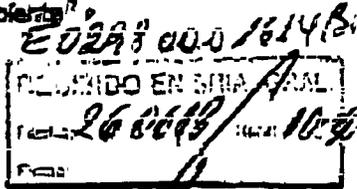
Sin otro particular, hacemos propicia la ocasión para saludarle atentamente.



DR. GUILLERMO SOSA
Ministro

RS/am
cc:

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Ministerio de Hacienda
Viceministerio de Estado de Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente
AXIAL Naturaleza y Cultura



Ministerio de Desarrollo Sostenible y Planificación

RECIBIDO

9 JUL. 1998 297/98

MESA-VMARNDP No. 103

La Paz, Julio 7 de 1998

Señor
Lic. Miguel López Balovic
VICEMINISTRO INVERSIÓN PÚBLICA
Y FINANCIAMIENTO EXTERNO
Presente.

Señor Viceministro:

Adjunto, tengo a bien remitir, el Concepto de Proyecto denominado *Áreas Críticas para la Conservación Dentro las Ecoregiones Prioritarias de América Latina*, propuesta por TROPICO.

Asimismo comunico a usted que en reunión de fecha 18 de junio pasado, el mencionado Concepto de Proyecto fue aprobado por el Comité Nacional de Selección de Proyectos GEF, por lo que le solicito cordialmente encargar por el Gobierno de Bolivia al PNUD esta propuesta para que sea considerada dentro el Programa GEF.

Al agradecer su atención y apoyo que pueda prestar al indicado Proyecto, reitero mis atentas consideraciones.


Nela Rojas Hurtado
VICEMINISTRO DE MEDIO AMBIENTE,
RECURSOS NATURALES Y
DESEMPEÑO FORESTAL
Min. de Desarrollo Sostenible y Planificación

cc: Adm. GEF
VICEMINISTRO
DGS1-DIR No. 0277/98
TROPICO
C. GEF/10/PNUD

FRASE: IKL :

Feb. 10 1999 12:54:11



REPUBLICA DEL ECUADOR
MINISTERIO DE MEDIO AMBIENTE

"EL ECUADOR HA SIDO
ESTRELLA PARA AMAZONIA"

Quito, 9 de Febrero de 1998
Oficio No. 0209-MMA

Doctora
Carmes Josse
DIRECTORA EJECUTIVA
CENTRO DE DATOS PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN
Ciudad.-

De mi consideración:

Me cumple indicar a usted que el Ministerio de Medio Ambiente evalúa la idea de proyecto "Áreas Críticas en Eco-Regiones con prioridad en América Latina: Análisis de Intervalo Eco-Regional para Estrategias de Conservación" presentada por el Centro de Datos para la Conservación-Ecuador, toda vez que la misma se encuadra dentro de las prioridades establecidas en las políticas y programas ambientales nacionales.

El Ministerio de Medio ambiente continuará apoyando este importante proyecto que se presentará al Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial.

Hago propicia la oportunidad para reiterar a usted mis sentimientos de consideración más distinguida.

Atentamente,

Dra. Flor de María Valverde B.
Dra. Flor de María Valverde B.
MINISTRA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE

Fl
FV/...



Post-Net Fax Note	7671	Date	10/9	FOR	00000001
To	Xavier Silva	From	Prado Vasquez		
Concept	LACD-TNC	City			
Phone #		Phone #	51-1-3796102		
Fax #	703 841 4880	Fax #			

Lima, 12 de abril de 1999

Carta No 601-99-CONAM/SE

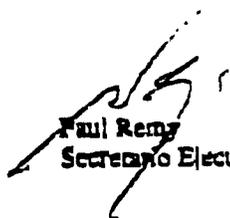
Señor
Rafael Rodríguez Capetillo
PNUMA
Presente -

Tengo el agrado de dirigirme a usted para expresar el respaldo de CONAM en su condición de punto focal operacional del GEF en el Perú, a la Idea de Proyecto "Arcas críticas dentro de ecorregiones prioritarias en América Latina", presentado por el Centro de Datos para la Conservación (CDC).

Asimismo, consideramos que esta iniciativa no debe quedar únicamente en el diagnóstico, sino que PNUMA debe facilitar los mecanismos para implementar una etapa de ejecución, que redunde en beneficios para las poblaciones locales. En caso de ser así, CONAM no tendrá reparos en respaldar dicha iniciativa.

Sin otro particular, quedo de usted.

Atentamente,


Paul Remy
Secretario Ejecutivo