



PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GEF COUNCIL SUBMISSION

Agency's Project ID: RS-X1016
GEFSEC Project ID: 2686
Countries: El Salvador, Guatemala y Honduras
Project Title: Integrated Management of the Montecristo Trinational Protected Area
GEF Agency: IDB
Other Executing Agencies: N/A
Duration: 4 years
GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity
GEF Operational Program: OP4: Mountainous Ecosystems
GEF Strategic Priority:
BD-1: Catalyzing the Sustainability of Protected Areas
Estimated Starting Date: July 2006
Estimated WP Entry Date: February 2006
Pipeline Entry Date: July 2005
IA Fee: US\$315,000 (9% of GEF funding, including PDF-B)

FINANCING PLAN (US\$)	
GEF CONTRIBUTION	
Project	3,500,000
PDF A	-0-
PDF B	150,000
PDF C	-0-
GEF Subtotal	3,650,000
Co-financing	
IDB/Norwegian Fund (design)	250,000
IDB (Projects in Trifinio and in three countries)	1,954,000
National Governments and CTPT Contribution	1,167,000
Other Financial Institutions	700,000
Local stakeholders	1,669,000
Subtotal Co-financing :	5,740,000
Total Project Financing :	9,390,000

Contribution to Key Indicators of Business Plan: The Project will contribute to the following targets and performance indicators established for the Biodiversity Focal Area (BD-1) for GEF3: (a) the protected areas systems in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras will be strengthened by incorporating a functional mechanism for trinational protected area management; (b) the Montecristo Trinational Protected Area (MTPA), representing approximately 14,000 hectares across the three countries, will be consolidated and linked with the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC), and (c) approximately 15% of the Project funding will be directed towards capacity building involving local stakeholders.

Governments Endorsement Registry: (Operative Focal Points)

El Salvador: Hugo César Barrera, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (November, 14 2005)

Guatemala: Juan Mario Dary F., Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (November 17, 2005)

Honduras: Patricia G. Panting, Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment (December 12, 2005)

This proposal has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the standards of the GEF Project Review Criteria for approval.

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1. PROJECT SUMMARY

a) Project Rationale, Objectives, Products and Activities

The Montecristo Massif is a mountainous area in the center of the territory known as the Trifinio Region where the borders of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras meet precisely at a peak of Punto Trifinio lying found at 2,418 meters above sea level called Punto Trifinio. This area is significant as it comprises stands out for being the upper reaches of three of the most important watersheds in Central America (Lempa, Motagua and Ulúa) and due to the because of the unique diversity of its important biological resources found there.

Since 1987, the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras have invested their own funds as well as grants and loans provided by international institutions in the Trifinio Region, promoting seeking to pursue sustainable development under the guidance of the Trifinio Plan. One of the main activities was the Trifinio Pilot Project carried out with the assistance of the European Union in 17 municipalities in the region between 1992 and 1999.

Recognizing the biological value of the zone, in November 1987, the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, through the Trinational Commission of the Trifinio Plan (CTPT) signed a declaration for the protection of the ecosystems in the Trifinio Region. In response to this declaration, the countries established protected areas in their respective territories of the Montecristo Massif: in El Salvador as the Montecristo National Park, through Executive Decree No. 53, published in the Diario Oficial, Volume 297, dated November 17, 1987; in Guatemala as the La Fraternidad Biosphere Reserve through Government Resolution 939-87 and reaffirmed under Executive Order 4-89; and in Honduras as the Montecristo-Trifinio Biosphere Massif Reserve and National Montecristo Park under Executive Order 87/87. However, only El Salvador has established and maintained management infrastructure and staff for management in its portion of the area.

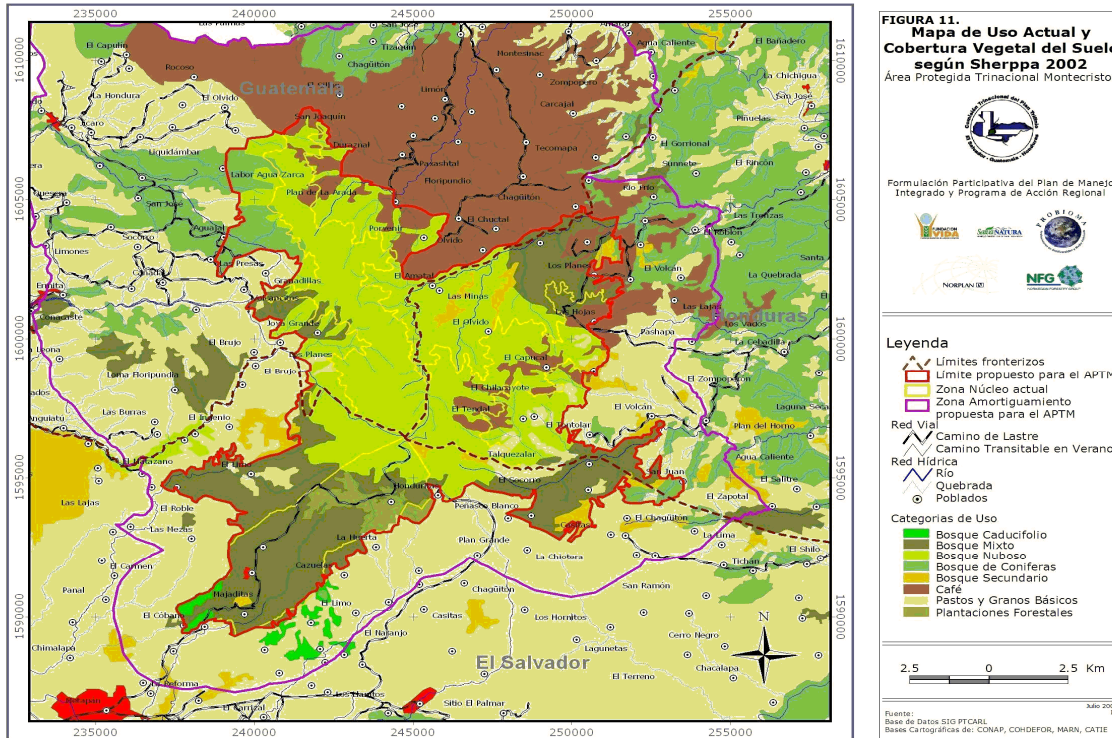
In 1997, the countries signed the Treaty for the Execution of the Trifinio Plan, which recognizes that the Trifinio Region as a is an area of special interest area of to the three governments, and asis an indivisible ecological unit, in which only joint coordinated action by the three countries can provide a satisfactory solution to the problems affecting that region and the sustainable management of its natural resources. The governments of each country requested financing and technical assistance from the Bank and other institutions and donors for the formulation and design and execution of the Trinational Sustainable Development Program for the Upper Lempa River Basin (PT-CARL).

In 2003, the CTPT, through its Trinational Executive Secretariat (SET), requested the Bank's help for financing the preparation of an Integrated Management Plan for the protected areas in Montecristo as a whole. Based on the results of the socio-environmental diagnostic study carried out, the protected areas authorities in the protected areas in the three countries, (MARN, El Salvador; SE-CONAP, Guatemala; AFE-COHDEFOR, Honduras), represented in the Trinational Committee for Protected Areas of Trifinio (CTAP) proposed the medium-term objective of effective on-ground management of protected areas in all three countries seeking to expand the original boundaries of these areas outer limits beyond what is now declared in order to ensure pursue the conservation of biodiversity in the forest areas in the Montecristo Massif as a whole (both state and private lands), much of which were not included in the original protected area designations (see Figure 1). It was agreed to refer to this new expanded area as the Montecristo Trinational Protected Area (MTPA). In October 2005, the Vice Presidents of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador signed Resolution No TR-4-2005 supporting the MTPA initiative and the implementation of the Integrated Management Plan.

The MTPA holds large expanses of cloud forest, a type of vegetation found only at the tops of tropical and subtropical mountains. This habitat is also a resting site for migratory birds flying between the northern and southern hemispheres, meaning that these small fragments of wood forest have an important effect on biodiversity well beyond Central America, affecting ecosystems in both North and South

America. Additionally, the area is located in an area interconnecting with a series of biological corridors previously identified in the three countries within the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC), and is recognized for its importance as habitat and as avenues of movement and migration for fauna in the Central American Isthmus.¹

Figure 1: Vegetation cover in the MTPA (2002)



To date, approximately 1,440 species of flora and fauna have been registered in Montecristo, but scientific estimates suggest that there are upwards of 3,300. The importance of the area as a refuge for biodiversity is not due as much to the large number of species present there, but rather to the presence of the species endemic to the site and of globally threatened species. Research conducted to date indicates that there are at least 48 species endemic to the site and at least 50 globally threatened species. During the rapid ecological evaluation carried out under the GEF PDF-B grant for preparing the present project, 13 new plant species believed to be new to science, including five tree species (still pending scientific confirmation), suggest that the Montecristo Massif may have served as a place of refuge for biological diversity during the climatic fluctuations of the Pleistocene.²

The MTPA comprises the headwaters of the Upper Lempa River Basin and its tributaries provide water resources utilized by the populations in the MTPA and its buffer zone in all three countries (approximately 20,000 people) and the surrounding municipal centers of Esquipulas (Guatemala), Metapán (El Salvador), and Ocotepeque (Honduras) as a source of water for drinking, industrial uses, and irrigation. Downstream in El Salvador the flow of water is used for generating around 430 MW of hydroelectric power, supplying more than 50% of El Salvador's electricity demand. In the diagnostic study of the MTPA, it has been estimated that the 13,924 hectares of protected area surface produce an annual runoff volume of approximately 100 million cubic meters that reaches the creeks and tributaries of

¹ The biological corridors connect Montecristo to: the San Diego-La Barra Dry Forest in El Salvador; the Guija Lake Wetlands between El Salvador and Guatemala; the Suchitán, Quetzaltepeque, Ipala and Las Víboras Volcanoes, and the Atescatempa Lagoon in Guatemala; the Cerro Güisayote and Cerro Erapuca in Honduras; and Cerro El Pital on the border of El Salvador and Honduras.

² SalvaNatura, October 2005.

the Lempa River.³ In addition, the MTPA is the most important source of water to the Lempa River during the dry season from November to April. This river supplies water to satisfy an annual consumption in El Salvador alone of around 174 million cubic meters currently and by 2020 annual consumption is expected to reach 460 million cubic meters (Project MAG/PAES-CATIE, 2004). The Montecristo Massif likewise provides water for irrigating over 14,000 hectares, is used for coffee processing in the buffer zone of the MTPA and by hundreds of industries of various types downstream in Metapán and other industrial centers in El Salvador.

As the Montecristo Massif is located at the middle of a convergence of regional tourism (Esquipulas, Guatemala), commercial exchange (Ocotepeque, Honduras), and industrial activity and financial services (Metapán, El Salvador), it suffers the consequences of anthropogenic pressures of a growing population and an expanding agricultural frontier by people in search of land and natural resources for subsistence and economic purposes. This situation places at high risk the functioning of the ecosystems represented in the Montecristo Massif, the survival of its regionally and globally important biodiversity, and continuity in the provision of environmental services that serve the well-being of the populations in all three countries. The main threats to the MTPA are: i) the felling of natural forests for agricultural and livestock uses; ii) forest fires; iii) application of non-sustainable agricultural activities; iv) extraction from and structural degradation of the forests; v) indiscriminate and illegal hunting and capture of animals; and iv) improper disposal of domestic and industrial solid and liquid wastes (see Appendix K for a more complete description of the threats).

Unless the necessary protection steps are taken in a participatory manner involving the different groups of stakeholders, and adequate management is established over the trinational area as an integrated management unit, these biological resources that are so vitally important to all three countries, Central America, and the world, will be lost.

The **objective** of this Project is to support the initial implementation of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) of the Montecristo Trinational Protected Area in the Trifinio Region of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, through a trinational institutional framework operating in a participatory, integrated and effective manner as a means to conserve the biodiversity, natural processes and environmental services of local, regional and global importance provided by the MTPA and facilitate its integration into the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.

The GEF funding proposed for the Project complements the baseline investments of the three governments mainly within the framework of the Trinational Upper Lempa River Basin Sustainable Development Program/PT-CARL (IDB Regional Operation CA-0034), financed through IDB loans in Guatemala (1331/OC-GU) and in Honduras (1082/OC-HO) as well as with funds from the El Salvador Environmental Program (886/OC-ES). The specific objectives of PT-CARL (which is executed by CTPT/SET) and its corresponding components are to: (i) achieve the sustainable management of the renewable natural resources of the region, addressing the problems related to the loss of forest cover and non-sustainable use of the land through conservation oriented techniques and the promotion of viable income generating activities that lead to increased incomes and improved quality of life; (ii) reduce the vulnerability to natural hazards through the recovery of degraded areas and the protection of vulnerable areas, as well as early warning and community preparedness activities, (iii) promote sustainable productive activities and economic diversification in areas such as forestry, farming, tourism and other value added activities; and (iv) strengthen local governments and improve the capabilities of community organizations within a trinational integration context. Additional funds will be mobilized from this and other projects and programs being executed at the regional and national level in the three countries, as well as from local counterparts, in order to achieve the incremental results that will contribute to the

³ NORPLAN/NRG/Fundación VIDA/PROBIOMA/SalvaNatura Consortium, August 2005.

protection of globally important biodiversity (see Appendix L for a summary of main lessons learned from these and other transboundary projects).

The scope of the activities presented in the baseline scenario currently extend only up to the initial boundary of the MTPA buffer zone, and for most part are not oriented toward the conservation of biodiversity. Therefore, the resources of the Project shall be dedicated primarily to the protection of the biological resources represented in the Montecristo Massif; to the maintenance, restoration and valuation of the environmental goods and services offered by the watersheds of the Upper Lempa River Basin; and to facilitating connections of the MPTA with those regional biological corridors identified as priorities by the three countries within the framework of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor. Benefits of the Project will thus be incremental to the current projects with a thematic and/or geographic scope in the Trifinio Region and key to achieving integrated management of the natural resources and ecological associations represented in the MTPA and its buffer zone, as well as the social and productive activities on which they depend, while also contributing to the consolidation and conservation of the biological corridors in the Mesoamerican region and the protection of biodiversity of local, national, regional, and global importance.

The Project is aimed at catalyzing the initial activities undertaken to establish the MTPA, at facilitating the development of a trinational framework for the management and administration of the area, and initializing effective on-ground implementation of the MTPA's Integrated Management Plan. The Integrated Management Plan has been approved by the protected areas management agencies in each of the three participating governments as the fundamental document for guiding the management and conservation activities in their respective portions of the MTPA. To achieve Project objectives during the first four years of execution of the IMP, the following main incremental results are expected:

- *Incremental Result 1: Legal, Territorial, and Institutional Consolidation of the Montecristo Trinational Protected Area.* Advances will be made in formalizing land tenure and in establishing the geographic boundaries of the MTPA, and the trinational legal-institutional framework for the effective and participatory on-ground management of the MTPA will be consolidated. The MTPA will be the first and only trinational protected area in the Americas to be administered in an integrated manner by a single management unit, under a single management plan and budget. By the end-of-project, 50% of recurring management costs should be financed under the Projects sustainable financing plan.
- *Incremental Result 2: The Integrated and Effective Management of the MTPA for the Conservation of Biodiversity.* The Project will result in the implementation on the ground activities for management and protection in the entirety of the MTPA, including Guatemalan and Honduran sections, both on public as well as private lands, to assure the protection of biodiversity, maintain the functioning of the ecosystems and provision of environmental services or restore these in selected degraded areas, and facilitate access and public use of the MTPA for recreational and educational purposes.
- *Incremental Result 3: The Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Environmental Management in the MTPA and its Buffer Zone and Biological Corridors.* Non-consumptive and sustainable agroforestry practices will be adopted by a representative number of groups of producers and users of the natural resources in the MTPA, its buffer zone and in three biological corridors. Thus the threats of anthropogenic origin to the MTPA and to its biodiversity and the functioning of its ecological associations, including its watersheds, will be reduced through the restoration and/or maintenance of the ecosystems and the protection of biodiversity, while improving the well-being of a representative proportion of the surrounding population. A complementary result will be achieved in terms of the establishment of on-ground examples of conservation easements in three priority biological corridors (one in each country) interconnecting the MTPA with the MBC. Increased environmental awareness among students and stakeholder groups in the Trifinio Region will contribute to increased support of management and protection of the MTPA and a gradual reduction in unsustainable anthropogenic pressures.

- *Incremental Result 4: Improved Knowledge of the Dynamic Ecological Conditions in the MTPA and its Buffer Zone, and their Interrelationship with the Users of Natural Resources.* Knowledge will be improved through the establishment of environmental and socioeconomic baselines and indicators to monitor changes in the biodiversity, composition, and functioning of the ecosystems over time, the value of environmental services, and the impact of anthropogenic activities in the use of natural resources, in response to management and protection activities. The understanding of these interrelationships will be enhanced through specific studies of priority topics in the MTPA and the three biological corridors to be established. Resulting information will be used for improved decision making by local, national and trinational authorities that affect sustainable development, while lessons learned and best practices will facilitate improved management and conservation of transboundary protected areas management efforts throughout the Americas and, potentially, on a global scale.

To achieve the incremental results indicated, the Project includes the following components and activities:

Component 1: Legal, Territorial and Institutional Consolidation of the Montecristo Trinational Protected Area. The Project will contribute to formalizing the geographic boundaries and trinational legal framework required for the effective management of the MTPA through: i) land tenure regularization and delimitation of MTPA boundaries; ii) establishment and initiating operations of the Trinational Management Unit within the existing institutional framework of the Executive Secretariat of the Trinational Commission for the Trifinio Plan; iii) promotion of local stakeholder groups' participation in the management of the MTPA; iv) analysis and establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms for long-term implementation of the Integrated Management Plan; and v) promulgation of the required policy and legal instruments at the national and regional level.

Component 2: Integrated Management of the MTPA for the Conservation of Biodiversity. The Project will promote the implementation of management and protection actions in the MTPA, on both public as well as private lands, including such activities as: i) instituting functional land use plans and a zoning scheme; ii) establishment of protected area management and public use infrastructure; and iii) development of a program for management of reserves on private property. Emphasis will be made on promoting adaptive management, applying the lessons learned and taking into consideration the information resulting from the monitoring activities and the action research program

Component 3: Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Environmental Management in the Buffer Zone of the MTPA and Biological Corridors. The Project will promote: i) the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and forestry management by groups of producers and users of natural resources, including activities of vocational training for ecotourism, natural product processing and marketing, and cleaner production in agroindustry; ii) the establishment pilot activities to establish conservation easements in biological corridors interconnecting with the MTPA with the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor; and iii) an environmental education and awareness raising program directed to secondary school students, tourists and the general public relating to the importance of the MTPA, linked with small community-level sanitation and environmental management projects.

Component 4: Monitoring and Research of the Ecological and Socioeconomic Conditions in the MTPA and its Buffer Zone, and Biological Corridors. The Project will support establishment of an integrated research and monitoring and evaluation system to improve knowledge of the natural resources and ecological processes and the impact of their anthropogenic uses, the Project's effectiveness in the management of the MTPA and in achieving the outcomes and outputs projected in the Project Logframe. Ecological and socioeconomic baselines and indicators will be used for monitoring changes over time related to the effectiveness of Project management and conservation activities. Furthermore, the Project will design and implement an action research program to enhance knowledge of the local, regional and global importance of MTPA biodiversity, the true value of its environmental goods and services, and best practices for sustainable use of natural resources and restoration of ecological processes. All data

generated under this component will be entered into a comprehensive information management system to assist in the implementation of all components and provide a foundation for periodic evaluations.⁴ Information products will be disseminated through the Project website, reports and press releases to interested parties at local, national, regional and international levels. At least one regional workshop on transboundary protected areas will also be organized and the Project will engage with initiatives at the regional (eg. CCAD) and international (eg. Global Transboundary Protected Areas Network hosted by the World Commission on Protected Areas/IUCN) levels.

b) Key Indicators, Assumptions, and Risks

In accordance with the Logical Framework (see Appendix B), the outcome indicators to measure the level of Project success at the *Goal* and *Purpose* level are described below:

Goal: To contribute to the protection and conservation of globally important biodiversity, the natural processes and the environmental services provided by the MTPA in the Trifinio Region of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, to benefit the local population and contribute to the implementation of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.

Outcome indicators three years after the end of the Project:

- the area of natural forest cover in the MTPA is the same or has expanded compared to the level at the end of Year 1 (XX ha. baseline established during Year 1);
- the sedimentation level in selected streams of the MTPA is maintained or reduced compared to the level at the end of Year 1 (XX TSS, baseline established during year 1);
- the abundance of benthic species as a bio-indicator for water quality in the creeks in the outer limits of the MTPA is the same or higher compared to the level at the end of Year 1 (baseline established during Year 1);
- the rate of gastrointestinal diseases has been reduced by 20 % in the beneficiary population (defined as those receiving support for basic services from the Project) compared to the level at the beginning of the Project (XX%, baseline established at the beginning of the Project);
- the number of economically active persons living in the project area that receive at least 35% of their income from environmentally sustainable productive activities (e.g. ecotourism, sustainable agriculture, non-extractive use of natural resources) has increased 10% compared to the baseline to be established through a survey before the end of project year 1.

Purpose: Support the initial implementation of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) of the MTPA under a trinational institutional framework operating in a participatory, integrated and efficient manner.

Outcome Indicators by the end of the project:

- 100 % of the basic MTPA management activities are performed in a trinational and integrated manner through operational plans implemented by the Trinational Management Unit of the MTPA with the necessary local, national and regional participation (compared with 0% at the beginning of the Project);
- Numbers of reported fires and illegal actions (illegal hunting, extraction of wood etc) reduced (baseline established during Year 1).

⁴ The monitoring and evaluation program will include all necessary elements to respond to the GEF Tracking Tool for Strategic Priority 1, *Catalyzing the Sustainability of Protected Areas*, particularly as it related to monitoring the management effectiveness of the MTPA.

- At least three biological corridors interconnecting with the MTPA have been established, linking the MTPA with the nearby protected areas of San Diego La Barra, Volcán Quetzaltepque, El Pital and Guisayote and thus contributing to consolidating the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (XX Ha vs. 0 at the beginning of the Project).
- The management decision-making is based on scientific information systematized in the Project's information system (compared to initial ad-hoc use of information).
- 50% of the annual recurrent operational costs of the MTPA are met with resources of the Special Trust Fund compared to 0% at the beginning of the Project.
- 50% of the private land area in the MTPA is managed in line with the objectives of the Integrated Management Plan (compared to 0% at the beginning of the project).

Assumptions: The Project was designed under the assumptions that: i) the Trifinio Region and its objectives of integration and sustainable development will continue to be a priority for the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras; ii) the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras fully cooperate in promulgating legal instruments necessary for the full implementation of the IMP; iii) the full integration of management infrastructure and activities of the Montecristo National Park (El Salvador) is achieved under the trinational initiative; iv) instruments for collecting payments for the environmental goods and services generated by the MTPA and the establishment of the Special Trust Fund are implemented; v) owners of private property within the boundaries of the MTPA are willing to collaborate in conservation activities; and vi) proposed co-financing of other projects and programs is finalized in a timely manner.

Risks: The success of Project in achieving its objectives will depend in large part on the development of sustainable financing mechanisms to cover the recurrent management costs of the MTPA in the medium and long term. To that end, the Project proposes to consolidate and implement a Financial Sustainability Plan that will emphasize the diversification of revenues from numerous users of the environmental goods and services provided by the MTPA, especially larger-scale municipal, industrial and agricultural users of water resources and hydroelectric power stations, in addition to protected areas entrance fees and tourism concessions, among others. In addition, achieving certain ambitious objectives of the Integrated Management Plan to (for example formalizing the expanded boundaries of the MTPA or establishing a trinational protected areas trust fund) will require certain new national legal instruments which, if not achieved, could limit the level of achievement of expected Project outcomes. Nevertheless, the expectation is that most of the basic elements of the Integrated Management Plan can be achieved under the political and institutional framework established under the Treaty for the Execution of the Trifinio Plan which already has a long track record and its Trinational Executive Secretariat has been improving in efficiency with time with the administration of an ever-increasing number of programs. The current Project is directly linking its management and administrative functions with the Secretariat to ensure institutional sustainability and the permanence of the program to actively manage the MTPA. The active involvement of the national protected areas authorities through the Trinational Committee of Protected Areas of Trifinio will also facilitate Project execution and achievement of the objectives of the Integrated Management Plan.

2. Country Ownership

a) Country Eligibility

The three countries have ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity: El Salvador, on September 8, 1994; Guatemala, on July 10, 1995; and Honduras, on July 31, 1995.

b) Country Drivenness

In 1997, the countries signed the Treaty for the Execution of the Trifinio Plan, which affirmed that only joint and coordinated actions among the three countries can satisfactorily solve the problems affecting the

region and achieve the sustainable management of its natural resources. That same year, the Central American Presidents agreed to promote the construction of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor vis-à-vis the interconnection of each country's national protected areas in order to conserve biological diversity as a basic and strategic element for sustainable production. One of the objectives of the Trifinio Plan and the MBC is the protection, conservation and management of the ecosystems present in the Montecristo Massif and all other ecosystems linked within the Trifinio Region.

The Project is also consistent with the objectives established by the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development (ALIDES), the Convention on Biodiversity and Priorities Areas, and the Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Mesoamerican Biodiversity (CCAD, 2003) and its results related to: i) increasing the knowledge base regarding Mesoamerican biodiversity as a basis for effective decision-making; ii) developing initiatives for the protection, recovery and sustainable use of representative and priority ecosystems, habitats and species of the region; iii) promoting appreciation and sustainable use of biodiversity as a contribution to the quality of life of Mesoamerican society; iv) strengthening the regional institutional framework and harmonizing instruments for the effective management of biodiversity in Mesoamerica; and v) establishing programs in the region to reduce threats to biodiversity. Furthermore, in 2003, the Central American countries signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the Mesoamerican Sustainable Development Initiative (IMDS) of the Puebla-Panama Plan (PPP). One of the objectives of the IMDS is the development of programs for the sustainable management of natural resources in transboundary areas and identifies the Trifinio-Montecristo area as a priority.

The protected areas management agencies of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras held a meeting in February 2003 during which they decided to contribute to the integrated process of planning, managing and administering the protected areas of the Trifinio Region. The Trinational Commission for the Trifinio Plan recognized the establishment of the Trinational Committee on Protected Areas (CTAP) of the Trifinio Region, comprised of the three national protected areas agencies (MARN, SE-CONAP, and AFE-COHDEFOR), as its advisory entity and requested the support of the IDB and the GEF to further the initiative. In response to this request, the IDB combined funding from its Norwegian Consulting Fund and a PDF-B grant from the GEF to develop the Environmental and Socioeconomic Diagnostic Study, the Integrated Management Plan, and a Regional Action Plan to facilitate management of the MTPA.⁵ Using these documents as a basis and the favorable opinions of the respective protected areas management agencies, on October 27, 2005, within the framework of the CTPT, the Vice Presidents of the Republics of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador signed Resolution No. TR-4-2005 supporting the Montecristo Trinational Protected Area initiative and the implementation of its Integrated Management Plan.

The Project is also consistent with the national biodiversity strategies of each country and their respective plans of action that were previously financed with GEF funds, in which Montecristo comprises a top conservation priority. The National Biodiversity Strategy of El Salvador (GEF/PNUD/MARN, 1999) establishes the following three priorities: i) implementation of an information system on biodiversity and the consolidation of the national system of protected areas; ii) institutional restructuring and redefining of conservation activities, including the updating of plans, programs, and policies as well as of regulations and procedures; and iii) strengthening of national, institutional and human capacities in the conservation of biodiversity. The Montecristo National Park is the protected area with the highest conservation priority in El Salvador (National Biodiversity Strategy, 1999) and the sole area managed directly by MARN, hosting the largest expanse of cloud forest between the two areas that still have this ecosystem in the country. For Honduras, in 2003, the AFE-COHDEFOR made a study for the rationalization of the National System of Protected Areas, in which approximately 35 protected areas were prioritized for conservation investments out a total of 107 areas, including Montecristo National Park, and was identified as one of the four priority biological corridors identified at the national level within the framework of the

⁵ NORPLAN/NFG/Fundación Vida/ProBioma/SalvaNatura Consortium, August 2005.

MBC. Finally, according to the National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Biodiversity of Guatemala (CONAMA, CONAP, MAGA, GEF/UNDP, 1999), the Altos de Chiquimula Bioregion—which includes the La Fraternidad Biosphere Reserve (Montecristo Massif)—ranks tenth among 26 bioregions in terms of a consolidated priority scoring for values of biodiversity, surface area, and representativeness. The Reserve is also indicated on the map of the Guatemalan System of Protected Areas as part of the biological corridor that links the Sierra de las Minas Biosphere Reserve to the north and Lake Guija and its wetlands to the south.

3. Conformity with GEF Policy and Programs

a) Operational Program and Strategic Priority

The proposed Project is consistent with the guidelines established for Operational Program 4, Mountainous Ecosystem, as it will: i) promote the *in situ* conservation of the cloud forest, pre-cloud forest (transitional), mixed oak-pine and pine forest ecological associations in the Montecristo Massif; ii) contribute to regional and global efforts to consolidate the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor and its interconnections in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras; and iii) promote the dissemination and adoption of best practices for sustainable use of natural resources as a basis for economic production, social well-being and maintenance of the integrity of the represented ecosystems.

The Project meets most of the basic elements of the GEF Strategic Priority *BD-1: Catalyzing the Sustainability of Protected Areas*. The proposed innovative trinational management model could be replicated in other transboundary areas of the region. More specifically, the Project will contribute to: i) strengthening management capabilities of a trinational protected area; ii) formal involvement of local communities in MTPA management; iii) reducing threats to the biodiversity present in the Trifino Region; (iv) development and implementation of innovative sustainable financing mechanisms for the continued operational management of the MTPA; and v) promotion of the participation of private land owners in the management of protected areas. The Project will also contribute to regional initiatives of dissemination of information on biodiversity and best practices for its management (for example the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network/IABIN).

It should also be emphasized that the Project will contribute to the Mountainous Biodiversity Work Program promoted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Biodiversity, particularly in view of the fact that: i) it will contribute to the reducing threats to vulnerable ecosystems such as cloud forests and their transitional associations; ii) it will promote the consolidation of a transboundary initiative for conservation of biodiversity; and iii) it will expand and disseminate knowledge on mountain biodiversity.

The Project includes interrelated awareness raising and environmental education activities intended to evoke changes in the attitude and actions within local governments, municipalities, communities and productive sectors that will engender adoption of best practices of resource use and conservation considering concepts of ecosystem functions, including agroforestry, soil and water conservation, sustainable forest management, and generation of economic alternatives that embrace the non-consumptive utilization of biodiversity (especially tourism and production of handicrafts). The Project will also promote the maintenance and/or restoration of functional ecosystems in the Trifinio Region and interconnected biological corridors with private landowners, community groups and municipalities, through pilot project demonstrations of high replication potential, which will also include the application of innovative market-based incentives for payment of environmental goods and services.

b) Sustainability

Institutionally, it is envisioned that both the Integrated Management Plan and the GEF/IDB Project will operate within the trinational institution framework already in place for several years under the authority of the CTPT. The fact that the three governments continue to contribute financial and institutional resources to projects related to the Trifinio Plan, including the Trinational Upper Lempa River Basin Sustainable Development Program (PT-CARL) and various other projects with the cooperation of international development assistance institutions, is evidence of their commitment to support activities in the future under adopted policies and strategies of integration of the Central American States. Based on CTPT Resolution No. 4-2005, the national governing authorities (SE-CONAP, MARN, and AFE-COHDEFOR) will sign agreements with the Trinational Executive Secretariat to delegate authority for day-to-day management of the MTPA under a co-management arrangement. As the Treaty gives authority to the CTPT for the establishment of the operational and administrative units it deems necessary to carry out the activities under the Plan, it has authorized the creation of the Trinational Management Unit, attached to the TES, as a permanent institutional entity for the management of the MTPA and implementation of the Integrated Management Plan. The Trinational Committee for Protected Areas will continue to serve as the advisory entity to the CTPT/SET, but with expanded responsibilities that guarantee the direct participation of each of the national protected areas management agency of the three countries in the continuous supervision and quality control of management activities. Also, wide participation of local residents, community organizations and private enterprise is guaranteed by their membership in the three National Stakeholder Committees (NSC) organized under the PT-CARL Program. The NSCs are integrated into the trinational institutional framework to be established under the Project.

Regarding the financial sustainability of the activities to be promoted in the MTPA through the Integrated Management Plan, in coordination with other program partners in the Trifinio Region, a socioeconomic analysis of the costs and benefits of the productive but non-consumptive activities to be encouraged in the MTPA and its buffer zone will be carried out as a basis for their inclusion in the menu of interventions. The Project and co-financing partners will monitor the level of adoption of technologies among the target population and quantify the benefits (and costs) from both socioeconomic and environmental perspectives to evaluate their level of sustainability. Additionally, a series of activities have been included in the Project to facilitate the development and implementation of strategies and instruments to generate the revenues required for meeting the recurring costs of management and protection activities in the MTPA and its buffer zone. The Project will facilitate the development of a definitive Sustainable Financing Plan and the gradual implantation of the most promising mechanisms and instruments identified during Project preparation, among others: i) entrance fees paid by visitors to the MTPA; ii) permits for research and scientific inventories; iii) concessions and/or fees charged to tourism companies/operators, tourist transport services, restaurants, hostels and hotels, and vendors; iv) payment of tariffs for use/extraction of water for industrial use; v) payment of fees for use/extraction of water for generating hydroelectric power; and vi) contributions or special municipal taxes of the municipalities for the protection and reduction of vulnerability to natural disasters. The Project will also support the establishment of a Special Trust Fund for the MTPA (see Appendix M for additional information on the Sustainable Financing Plan).

The CTPT/SET is currently actively engaging various partners to pursue sustainable financing options. For example, an agreement between the CTPT/SET with the Executive Hydroelectric Commission of the Lempa River (CEL), the authority that regulates operation of the four hydroelectric generating facilities on the Lempa River and deemed one of the principal beneficiaries of the benefits of effective management and protection of the forest cover in the MTPA, has been signed to provide payments for watershed protection on the Montecristo Massif. The Municipalities in both Guatemala and Honduras are already financing a limited number of park rangers and the Municipality of Esquipulas (Guatemala) has recently indicated to the CTPT/SET an interest to increase their support for the Montecristo initiative. Finally, the contract to be signed between the CTPT/SET and entity selected under a competitive international bidding process to perform the functions of the Trinational Management Unit will be

structured so that this Unit actively seek financing sources to meet recurring operational needs (and as an incentive to the Contractor's continuing its own operations) as the percentage of costs met by the Project will decline.

c) Replicability of Experience Gained and Lessons Learned

While protected areas management activities and the dissemination of best practices for non-consumptive use of natural resources are similar to those promoted in many projects in the region, the fact that the Project will be executed in a coordinated manner between three countries will enable the generation of experiences that are potentially replicable in other transboundary areas. Additionally, the Project proposes activities beyond the boundaries of the MTPA and its buffer zone in its pilot activities to physically link the MTPA to regional biological corridors already prioritized by the three countries as a contribution to construction of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor. The Project proposes to generate innovative experiences with respect to the trinational management of biodiversity and the promotion of best practices of sustainable use of natural resources and the management of private reserves within the MTPA and its buffer zone on a cooperative basis among communities of the three countries.

As there are numerous other transboundary areas in the Americas (as well as in other regions of the world) where biodiversity is threatened, given that traditionally these areas receive little priority and attract scant attention from their governments, it is expected that the lessons learned and the experience gained from execution of this Project will be relevant and replicable. Special care will be taken to assure that experiences resulting from this innovative trinational management effort are publicized at the local, national, regional and international level, including interchanges with other similar projects around the world, establishment of a Project website, documentation center and communication campaigns. Participation of Project staff in regional fora to share experiences (for example meetings organized by the CCAD) will also be promoted and the Project will also organize at least one regional workshop on transboundary protected areas management (in collaboration with other projects in the Region). An electronic bulletin will also be published and distributed periodically to disseminate lessons learned. Efforts will also be made to participate and contribute to the IUCN/CCAD on Transboundary Protected Areas Initiative and the Global Transboundary Protected Areas Network hosted by the World Commission on Protected Areas/IUCN.

d) Participation of Stakeholders and Intended Beneficiaries

It is important to indicate that the area to be promoted under the trinational PT-CARL Program coordinated by the CTPT/SET comprises almost the entire area surrounding the MTPA, including part of its buffer zone. During the preparation of the PT-CARL, a socioeconomic survey was conducted in the Trifinio Region to identify principal stakeholders and their associative organizations active in the productive use and management of natural resources (including farmers, ranchers, community organizations, private enterprise, municipal governments, etc.). This information served as a basis for the preparation of the IMP and the current Project. During the design process of the actual Project (both the phase financed by the Norwegian Consulting Fund managed by the IDB and that financed under the GEF PDF-B grant) a series of extensive consultations, workshops, and meeting with various interested groups was held within each national portion of the project area and at the regional level, with representatives of agencies of the three national and municipal governments, producer associations, community organizations and NGOs (see Appendix G). Additionally, an interdisciplinary work group was established under the authority of the CTPT with the National Executive Directors of the CTPT, the Trinational Executive Secretary and its coordinators of the Trinational Technical Unit and Trinational Administrative Unit, the protected areas management agencies of the three countries as members of the CTAP, and members of the IDB Project Team and consultants. This group participated in 11 workshops during the 18-month project design phase (see Appendix G).

It should be mentioned that as a result of almost 17 years of efforts conducive to integrated development in the Trifinio Region there is already a history of participation of organizations at all levels in the three countries. There are in the Region a number of local organizations, the majority of which were created as a result of the initiatives for projects executed in the Trifinio Region, such as the Trifinio Associations for Sustainable Development (ATRIDEST) established through the Trifinio Pilot Project (PPT) in 1995, which included membership of organizations of small and medium producers, savings and credit cooperatives, business guilds, NGOs and educators. Additionally, the PT-CARL Program has organized the National Stakeholder Committees (NSCs) as forums for participation in the planning and coordination of the execution of the activities under the Program. The NSCs are currently made up of representatives from municipal governments in the Upper Lempa River Basin of the three countries, productive associations and cooperatives, community associations, NGOs, and other stakeholder groups in accordance with their relationship to the area. The objectives and activities of the Project will be inserted into the agenda of the NSCs, with the addition of other interested groups directly involved in the management and protection of the MTPA; for example, the entities or individuals owning land within and adjacent to the MTPA. Efforts will be made to ensure participation of both women and men. A trinational annual stakeholders forum will be organized to ensure that the involved stakeholders can participate in the planning and evaluation of Project activities.

e) Monitoring and Evaluation

Component 4 of the Project includes a series of actions and products intended to provide a basis for facilitating continuous supervision, monitoring and annual evaluation of Project execution. Discrete baselines and indicators have been established and linked to the Project's Logical Framework⁶ (Appendix B) and for monitoring changes in ecological and sociological conditions in response to protected areas management activities in the MTPA, and the promotion of sustainable and regenerative productive activities in the buffer zone and related biological corridors. A comprehensive information system, including a GIS, will be established to consolidate all relevant information products generated by and used for project execution in support of all four components. The information system will also facilitate annual planning and monthly programming, timely supervision of the pace and quality of Project execution by component and activity (including environmental, socioeconomic, technical, and financial aspects), and annual, mid-term and final evaluations to determine progress toward the major objectives and outcomes indicated in the logical framework. The required technical, environmental and socioeconomic informational baselines and indicators will also respond to the requirements of the Tracking Tool used by GEF to monitor effectiveness of projects financed under its *Strategic Priority 1, Catalyzing the Sustainability of Protected Areas*.

A mid-term evaluation will be performed when 50% of the GEF resources have been disbursed, thereby allowing for adjustment of strategies and/or methodologies of execution, should it be necessary, through the remainder of the life-of-project. When 90% of the GEF resources have been disbursed, a final evaluation will be performed.⁷ The final evaluation will include an analysis of the lessons learned and a description of the best technical, institutional and participatory practices applicable to future actions of management of the MTPA and its buffer zone, and experiences in the restoration and constitution of

⁶ The sampling frequency is indicated for most indicators in the Logical Framework (column for Means of Verification). The monitoring will be coordinated by the Trinational Management Unit, including data collection by local ranger staff and local community members as applicable. Monitoring of certain indicators may be contracted to providers of specialized services, especially universities from each of the three countries. The Project will emphasize the use of remotely-sensed georeferenced data (archival and real time satellite imagery) as well as periodic flight reconnaissance as part of the tools for both monitoring and patrol/vigilance activities. The Trinational Management Unit will have the responsibility for data analysis and interpretation, and preparing pertinent information for making management decisions coordinated with the Trinational Committee for Protected Areas.

⁷ Both the mid-term and final evaluations will be financed by the IDB through the GEF fee and carried out by an independent individual consultant with close involvement of the IDB Project team.

biological corridors. Progress made on the financial sustainability of the MTPA will be analyzed in particular. Lessons learned, best practices and results of project evaluations will be widely shared with local and national government agencies, local stakeholder groups, co-financing partners, and other interested parties at the national, regional and international levels, including similar GEF-financed efforts, through the Project's website (which is linked to the Trinational Executive Secretariat's official website), in seminars and reports.

4. Financial Modality and Cost-Effectiveness

The total value of the GEF Alternative to achieve the overall benefits pursued under the Biodiversity Focal Area, GEF Operational Program 4, Strategic Priority BD-1, is US\$15,825,000. The baseline costs have been estimated at US\$6,835,000. The GEF contribution to finance the incremental costs is US\$3,500,000. Co-financing sources from the Inter-American Development Bank, the three national governments, international development assistance institutions, and local stakeholders have been identified to meet incremental costs for a total of US\$5,490,000. Table 1 presents a summary of the distribution of co-financing sources and the status of each proposed contribution (see commitment letters in Appendix I).⁸

5. Institutional Coordination and Support

a) Core Commitments and Linkages of the IDB and GEF

The Project responds to IDB strategies and policies for the region in its support for initiatives in Central America for economic, social and environmental integration, such as the Puebla-Panama Plan. The Project is also consistent with the Bank's Environmental Strategy in its objectives to promote the sustainable management of regional public environmental goods and services. It also conforms to the strategies of the Bank for El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. The Bank is already financing programs in the Trifinio Region and other thematically-related operations in the three countries, which serve both for co-financing activities of the current Project as well for exchanging information on experience gained and lessons learned.

With respect to GEF projects, the Bank acts as Executing Agency for a number of transboundary projects in the Region (both in preparation as well as in execution) including: Environmental Protection and Maritime Transport Pollution Control in the Gulf of Honduras (Belize, Guatemala, Honduras), Integrated Management of Ecosystems in the Binational Basin of the Sixaola River (Costa Rica and Panama), Integrated Management of Ecosystems in the Gulf of Fonseca (Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador) and Ecosystem Management by Indigenous Communities (Regional). It is expected that valuable lessons learned and best practice experiences generated under these projects will be exchanged during execution of the MTPA Project for mutual benefit (see Appendix L for a summary of lesson learned from other transboundary projects in the Region).

b) Consultation and Coordination with Implementing and Executing Agencies

During the preparation of the Project discussions were initiated with representatives of projects and programs already in progress at the national and regional level in the three countries in order to coordinate implementation and co-financing strategies of Project activities. Discussions were held at the regional level with the Central American Commission for the Environment and Development (CCAD), in particular with respect to the Regional Program for the Consolidation of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (GEF/PNUD/PNUMA/World Bank) and the CCAD program to support establishment and management of private reserves. Also at the regional level, coordination will be promoted with the Inter-

⁸ Details on the GEF contribution and that of each co-financing entity are provided for principal activity groups under each of the four Project components in Appendix H and a detailed budget with an estimated disbursement calendar is presented in Appendix J.

American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN-GEF/World Bank) and the Project for the Integrated Management of Ecosystems by Indigenous Communities (GEF/World Bank/IDB). In El Salvador, coordination was analyzed in regards to the Project for the Promotion of Biodiversity Conservation in Coffee Plantation Areas (GEF/World Bank), the Pilot Program for Consolidation of Protected Areas and Land Administration (GEF/World Bank), the World Bank/GEF Project for the Management of Natural Resources through the Conservation and Restoration of Environmental Services (Ecoservices), and the Land Administration Project/LAP II (World Bank). In Honduras information interchanges will be promoted with the project Promoting the Integrated Management of Ecosystems and Natural Resources (GEF/UNDP) and the Honduras Land Administration Program/PATH (World Bank).

Table 1: Sources of Co-financing

Source of Co-financing	Classification	Type	Amount (US\$)	Status
Governments and the Trinational Institution			1,167,000	
Government of El Salvador (MARN)	National	In Kind	690,000	Confirmed ^(a)
Government of Guatemala (CONAP)	National	In Kind	116,000	Confirmed ^(b)
Government of Honduras (AFE-COHDEFOR)	National	In Kind	166,000	Confirmed ^(c)
Trinational Commission of the Trifinio Plan (CTPT)	Trinational	In Kind	195,000	Confirmed ^(d)
International Development Assistance Financing Institutions			2,654,000	
PT-CARL (IDB)	Multilateral	In Kind and Cash	1,354,000	Confirmed ^(d)
Binational Program for Transboundary Development Honduras-El Salvador Border (European Union)	Multilateral	In Kind and Cash	475,000	Confirmed ^(e)
Project for the Sustainable Rural Development of Ecologically Fragile Areas in the Trifinio Region (CABEL)	Multilateral	In Kind and Cash	130,000	Confirmed ^(f)
Project for the Sustainable Development of the Environment and Hydrologic Resources in the Upper Lempa River Basin (IAEA)	Multilateral	In Kind and Cash	95,000	Confirmed ^(d)
Promotion Water Management Regional Public Good (IDB)	Multilateral	In Kind and Cash	200,000	Confirmed ^(d)
Multiphase Program for the Management of Natural Resources in Priority Basins/MARENA (IDB/AFE-COHDEFOR)	Multilateral	In Kind	25,000	Confirmed ^(c)
Sustainable Forestry Development Program/ProBosque (IDB)	Multilateral	In Kind	75,000	Confirmed ^(e)
El Salvador Environmental Program (IDB)	Multilateral	In Kind	300,000	Confirmed ^(g)
Organizations and Local Actors			1,669,000	
Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission (CEL), via an agreement with DEN El Salvador (Vice-Presidency) and MAG	Public	In Kind and Cash	300,000	Confirmed ^(h)
NGOs, academic institutions and researchers	NGO	In Kind and Cash	22,000	Confirmed ⁽ⁱ⁾
Municipalities	Public	In Kind	130,000	Confirmed ⁽ⁱ⁾
Community Organizations, Members of National Stakeholders Committees and Related Groups	Public-private	In Kind	185,000	Discussed during project preparation
Landowners (Private Reserves) in the MTPA and biological corridors	Private	In Kind	797,000	Discussed during project preparation ^(k)
Agricultural Producers and their Organizations	Private	In Kind	235,000	Discussed during project preparation
Co-financing Subtotal			5,490,000	

References to Commitment letters in Appendix I:

- a. See letter from MARN (June 2, 2006)
- b. See letter from CONAP (November 3, 2005)
- c. See letter from AFE-COHDEFOR (May 29, 2006)
- d. See letter from CTPT/SET (May 23, 2006)
- e. See letter from Binational Frontier Program Honduras-El Salvador-European Union May 30, 2006 (approximately 12% of the indicated amount has been allocated as co-financing)
- f. See letter from Ministry of Agriculture (Honduras)-PRODERT (May 22, 2006)
- g. See letter from MAG (April 6, 2006)
- h. See letter from the Vice-Presidency/National Executive Directorate for the Trifinio Plan (El Salvador) (May 23, 2006)
- i. See e-mails from Oliver Komar, SalvaNatura (April 18, 2006) and Nathan Frey April 5, 2006 (researcher from Tufts University)
- j. See letters from Municipalities of Esquipulas (June 1, 2006), Concepción Las Minas (June 2, 2006), Ocotepeque (June 5, 2006), Santa fe (June 2006)
- k. See supporting letters from three principal private land owners (Ernesto Freundt, Oscar Cabrera - May 2, 2006, Clemente Stanley)

c) Arrangements for Supervising Execution of the Project (IDB/CTPT)

The Project will be executed within the administrative framework already established in the Trinational Executive Secretariat and functioning for more than eight years for implementation of the Trifinio Plan. Most of the administrative procedures to be applied for the current Project are already used in the execution of the Bank-financed PT-CARL Program, including approved procurement and auditing systems. Additional operational procedures and norms have been added to the Operating Regulations of this Project which respond to special conditions included in protected areas laws and regulations of the three countries, as well as to requirements of the GEF.

The Trinational Executive Secretariat, which is actively managing several large projects in the Trifinio Region under the authority of the Trinational Commission for the Trifinio Plan, will coordinate administration of Project funds and accounting of co-financing contributions, including, sign all official contracts and cooperative agreements related to implementation of the Integrated Management Plan, and execute medium and large-scale procurements of goods and services that will be required in the execution of the Project. The Secretariat will also arrange annual meetings with all related projects to promote synergies and collaboration. The Secretariat will coordinate administration of funds with the Bank's Country Office in San Salvador, including disbursement requests, reconciliations and audits, clearances for procurement, annual operational plans, progress reports, and mid-term and final evaluations.

The Bank will assign supervision of Project execution to a specialist from its Country Office in El Salvador, who will be backstopped by a specialist from RE2/EN2 at IDB headquarters in Washington, the latter also serving as contact person with the GEF. Collaboration will also be sought with the specialists in the other two IDB Country Offices (Guatemala and Honduras), especially to ensure coordination with other projects and facilitate contacts with the respective national authorities as required. Periodic administrative missions will be made to the Trinational Executive Secretariat headquarters in San Salvador and the Trifinio Region and MTPA to monitor technical and administrative quality in Project execution.

Required Appendixes:

- Appendix A: Incremental Costs Analysis
- Appendix B: Logical Framework Matrix
- Appendix C: STAP Review
- Appendix C1: Response of Executing Agency to STAP Review
- Appendix C2: Comments from the GEF Council and responses from Executing Agency
- Appendix C3: Comments from GEFSEC at CEO Endorsement and responses from Executing Agency

Optional Appendixes:

- Appendix D: Resolution No 4-2005 signed by the Vice Presidents of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras (October 27, 2005) supporting the MTPA Initiative
- Appendix E: Copies of Endorsement Letters from GEF Focal Points
- Appendix F: BD-1 GEF Tracking Tool
- Appendix G: Consultation Process and Stakeholder Involvement (in Spanish)
- Appendix H: Detailed activity costs for the baseline and incremental activities
- Appendix I: Co-financing commitment letters
- Appendix J: Detailed financial plan with estimated timing of disbursements
- Appendix K: Main anthropogenic threats to biodiversity and natural resources in the MTPA
- Appendix L: Summary of main lessons learned from other transboundary projects
- Appendix M: Additional information on the Sustainable Finance Plan

Technical Information in Support of Project Execution (in Spanish) in the IDB (RE2/EN2) Files:

1. Environmental and Socioeconomic Diagnostic Study of the MTPA (NORPLAN/NFG/Fundación Vida/ProBioma/SalvaNatura Consortium, August 2005)
2. Integrated Management Plan of the MTPA (including maps and other Appendices) (NORPLAN/NFG/Fundación Vida/ProBioma/SalvaNatura Consortium, August 2005)
3. MTPA Citizen Participation Plan (NORPLAN/NFG/Fundación Vida/ProBioma/SalvaNatura Consortium, August 2005)
4. Rapid Ecological Evaluation of the MTPA (SalvaNatura, October 2005)
5. Montecristo National Park Diagnostic Study and Management Plan (MAG-PAES-CATIE, 2003)
6. Legal and Institutional Analysis (International Resources Group)
7. Operating Regulations (*draft in preparation*)
8. Procurement Plan
9. Favorable Opinions of the National Governing Agencies (SE-CONAP, MARN, AFE-COHDEFOR) on the Integrated Management Plan of the MTPA