

GEESEC Project Tracking System**Response Due Date: 05/27/98****Correspondence Description**Addressed to: *Mr. Kenneth King*

Correspondence Date: 05/13/98

Date Received: 05/14/98

Organization: UNDP

From: Rafael Asenjo

Assigned To: M. Ramos**Status: Open**

Type: Memorandum

Topic: PDF B: MEXICO: Conservation of Biological Diversity and Sustainable Development in Six Priority Areas of Mexico

Action Instructions

- For Bilateral meeting
- For information only. No action needed.
- Please handle/respond on behalf of Mr. Kenneth King and provide a copy.
- Please handle/respond on behalf of Mr. Mohamed El-Ashry and provide a copy.
- Please prepare a draft response and return to Program Coordinator
- Please reply directly and provide a copy.
- Please review and/or technical comments

Special Instructions

Submitted by UNDP for May 29 bilateral.

Information Copies Sent To:

A. Duda, M. Cruz, W. Lusigi, K. Kumari, H. Mishra

Projects File Room Location:**Note: A copy/original of the document is being sent directly to your attention.**

Please return this page with a copy of the incoming correspondence and the reply/action taken to Program File Manager (GEFSEC Project File Room) before or by due date with the original copy of the correspondence and the reply/action.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITY
PROPOSAL FOR PDF BLOCK B GRANTS

Country:	Mexico
Focal Area:	Biodiversity
Project Title:	<i>Conservation of Biological Diversity and Sustainable Development in Six Priority Areas of Mexico</i>
Amount of Funding Requested:	US\$ 350,000
Co-Funding:	US\$ 558,600 (SEMARNAP)
Total Project Costs:	US\$ 10.33 million [US\$ 5.00 million GEF; US\$ 5.33 million GoM]
Requesting Agency:	Secretariat of the Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries (SEMARNAP)
PDF Project Duration:	10 Months
Block A Grant Awarded:	No

I. Summary Project Objectives and Description

The objective of the full scale project proposal - *to be formulated with Block B funding requested here* - is the protection of outstanding biodiversity in six priority areas of Mexico, forming parts of four regionally and globally important ecoregions¹: Tehuantepec moist forests, Balsas dry forests, Mexican transvolcanic pine-oak forests, Chihuahuan semidesert. The full-scale project will work with stakeholders in the six areas (to be precisely defined by the corresponding pilot communities) to identify and implement priority zones for conservation based on analysis of threats and opportunities, to identify and implement technological options for sustainable management of habitat and species in conservation areas and buffer zones and corridors, to identify and formulate policy reforms, and to draft strategic investment plans aimed at attracting and applying investment from a variety of sources to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in every region.

The six priority areas to be addressed - *subject to confirmation from PDF B activities* - in the full-scale project are:

1. Los Tuxtlas-Sierra de Santa Marta, Veracruz (Tehuantepec moist forests)
2. La Chinantla, Oaxaca (Tehuantepec moist forests)
3. La Huasteca, Hidalgo (Tehuantepec moist forests)
4. La Meseta Purépecha, Michoacán (Mexican transvolcanic pine-oak forests)
5. La Montaña, Guerrero (Balsas dry forests)
6. Semiarid zone in Durango-Coahuila (Chihuahuan semidesert)

The full-scale project will promote and implement conservation and sustainable uses of biodiversity in specific territories within the six areas as an integral part of the government's *Programs for Sustainable Regional Development (PRODERS)*. The long-term goal of the

¹ Dinerstein, E., D. M. Olson, D.J. Graham, A.L. Webster, S.A. Primm, M. P. Bookbinder and G. Ledec. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/ The World Bank.

project is to incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use principles and practices into the local, municipal and regional planning and management of each ecoregion's productive landscapes. The result of this long-term effort is intended to be an integrated matrix of different land-uses across the landscape - for example, protected areas, buffer zones, production areas and biological corridors - which permit the conservation and sustainable use of each ecoregion's wealth of biodiversity.

The project will build on the multi-stakeholder, participatory planning methods and structures currently being implemented under PRODERS, and incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use elements into PRODERS' ongoing activities to achieve the protection of globally significant biodiversity. These baseline activities include: ecological land-use classification as the basis for defining sustainable development strategies; Regional Information Systems for Sustainable Development (SIRDS); Municipal and Community Development Programs as basic planning units for short and mid-term development; and the design and use of indicators to measure impact and sustainability of the programs on a) natural resources and b) stakeholder well-being, as well as to provide lessons and identify best practices to be fed back into planning processes. *Incremental activities will include:*

- The establishment of regional multisectoral Committees for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (COBIDES) to guide local, municipal and regional development.
- A monitoring system to measure impacts on globally significant biodiversity and to identify best practices.
- Policy and regulatory reform for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the four priority ecoregions.
- Training and capacity building of sectoral planners, producers, and resource managers at the local, municipal and regional levels in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use principles and practices.
- Pilot implementation of biodiversity friendly technologies in priority productive sectors.
- Establishment of an information dissemination system to facilitate replication of best practices and strengthen stakeholder awareness of the value and benefits of biodiversity.

II. Background - Baseline and On-going Activities

A. Programs for Sustainable Regional Development (PRODERS)

The Secretariat for the Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries (SEMARNAP) is responsible at the federal level for designing and implementing Programs for Sustainable Regional Development (PRODERS) aimed at establishing decentralised sustainable development processes in priority areas of the country. Within SEMARNAP, the General Directorate of Regional Programs is charged with promoting, according to Article 17 of the Secretariat's internal regulations, "inter-institutional co-ordination for the design, execution and evaluation of programs for sustainable regional development". At the present time the Directorate is undertaking PRODERS in 24 regions, encompassing 17 states with differing ecological and geographic characteristics.

PRODERS - within the strategic framework provided by the National Development Plan -are intended to build, strengthen and enable the elements necessary for planning to be carried out at the municipal and community levels, together with state and local government agencies, so that there is co-ordination at all times in the planning and implementation of programs and

projects. Each PRODERS is established in a formal, collaborative agreement among SEMARNAP, the Secretariat for Social Development, the Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development, the National Institute for Indigenous Affairs, state agencies, municipalities, academic institutions, NGOs and stakeholder organizations. Each PRODERS provides a framework for the incorporation of local and global environmental dimensions into the short and mid-term planning of these development programs.

The General Directorate of Regional Programs, using fiscal resources, is currently implementing the following activities as part of PRODERS:

- **Technical design of 24 Regional Sustainable Development Programs (PRODERS).** Co-operation agreements have been established with academic and research institutions, and technical personnel from NGOs and official development agencies have collaborated with farmers' organizations in Program design.
- **Ecological Land-Use Classification.** As part of the design of PRODERS, a classification methodology has been developed which will be the basis for land-use planning aimed at eliminating pressure on natural resources.
- **Communication and consensus building programs** with local authorities, organizations and other productive, political and social sectors in the region as a basis for the coordination of PRODERS.
- The formation of **Regional Development Councils** as democratic planning organisms in which different political, economic and social representatives in the region will participate. These will be the coordinating mechanisms for implementing PRODERS.
- **Regional Information Systems for Sustainable Development (SIRDS)**, consisting of servers and computerised modules where geographic, statistical, documentary, technological, financial and commercial information important to the region will be available to area inhabitants and representatives. These SIRDS will be connected through the internet to databases, experts and other interested parties both within the country and around the world.
- **Programs for Municipal and Community Development** will function as basic planning units for carrying out institutional activities aimed at matching local knowledge and needs with financial resources, technical information and expertise.
- The design and utilisation of specific **indicators** to assess the impact and sustainability of programs and projects on natural resources and stakeholder well-being and to provide lessons and identify best practices to be fed back into planning and management processes.

PRODERS is aimed at providing the elements to initiate processes of sustainable development in national high priority areas. These regions show common features such as high biological diversity, low social development, and high population growth rate. The combination of these three factors exacerbates the impact of human activities on natural resources. While the principal goal of PRODERS is socio-economic development made sustainable by including a local environmental dimension - soil erosion control, reforestation, etc. - it does not explicitly address the conservation of globally significant biodiversity. In this regard,

PRODERS provides a programmatic baseline aimed at generating local and national benefits; GEF incremental financing will be provided for complementary, additional activities aimed at producing global benefits.

B. SEMARNAP and Conservation of Biodiversity

The conversion of natural habitat to grazing land for cattle ranches is perhaps the most widespread cause of biodiversity loss in the four ecoregions. Although the intensity of this activity varies from region to region, cattle ranching on national and smallholder land has increased over the past years. Another major source of biodiversity loss is the selective extraction of species with high commercial value (timber, fauna, ornamental plants, etc.). Both over-extraction and habitat conversion and fragmentation reduce the possibilities for regeneration of natural ecosystems and for the reproduction and survival of local and migratory species.

The root causes of these problems is seen as a combination of at least the following factors: 1) sectoral government policies directed at the development of agriculture and livestock; 2) displacement and other cross-cultural processes among ethnic groups; and 3) the absence, obsolescence or lack of application of incentives or standards which motivate or penalise sustainable or unsustainable use of biodiversity.

With the project proposed here, SEMARNAP's strategy to date for conservation of biodiversity includes, among other things, the following mutually complementary programmes currently under design, implementation, or in the process of presentation for incremental financing by the GEF:

i) Program for the Protection of Natural Areas (Trust Fund for Protected Areas); this program is currently funded through the World Bank with resources from the GEF Pilot Phase. The Protected Natural Areas Fund (FANP) provides support to 10 PNAs² with the interest generated from a US\$ 16.3 million dollar trust fund capitalized with GEF resources. The interest from the endowment fund is used to fund the operations of the 10 PNAs (conservation activities and the management). The original GEF donation of US\$ 25 million dollars was intended to support the operation and management of 10 PNAs selected for their high biological diversity, as well as for the opportunities to work with local communities and non-governmental organizations. From 1992 to 1995, \$3.96 million dollars were used to hire personnel, obtain material and basic equipment, acquire vehicles, and develop productive projects, as well as for environmental education. These funds were also used to prepare management programmes in a consultative and participatory manner with community and sectoral stakeholders. By mid 1995 an external analysis concluded that there would be sufficient financial resources to finance the long-term operation of the original 10 PNAs by creating an endowment fund with the remaining GEF funds. ***None of the 10 PNAs served by the Pilot Phase project are found within the six areas proposed in the present PDF B.***

² These are: (1) El Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve, Baja California Sur; (2) Islas del Golfo Special Biosphere Reserve, Mar de Cortes; (3) Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, Campeche; (4) Montes Azules Biosphere Reserve, Chiapas; (5) Mariposa Monarca Special Biosphere Reserve, Michoacan y Mexico; (6) Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Quintana Roo; (7) Isla Contoy Special Biosphere Reserve, Quintana Roo; (8) Ria Lagartos Special Biosphere Reserve, Yucatan; (9) Sierra de Manantlan Biosphere Reserve, Jalisco y Colima; (10) El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve, Chiapas.

ii) Mesoamerican Biological Corridor: SEMARNAP's activities in this regional project are focused on the northern and westernmost portions of the Corridor found in Chiapas, Campeche, Yucatan and Quintana Roo. Within the framework of the MBC, SEMARNAP is developing a national component of the Corridor for submission to GEF through the World Bank for incremental financing, as well as those activities to be undertaken as part of the regional project *Establishment of a Programme for the Consolidation of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor* approved for funding in November of 1997. SEMARNAP's activities within the MBC include the identification and demarcation of possible multiple use corridors linking the following reserves: Laguna de Términos-Pantanos de Centla, Petenes-Celestun-Palmar, Dzilam-Ría Lagartos-Yum Balam, Sian Ka'an-Uaymil. Activities may also include the creation of new PNAs, the expansion of specific existing PNAs, and ecological land use planning.

iii) Consolidation and Strengthening of the National Protected Areas System: A request for PDF B funds for the development of this project is presented to the GEF through INE's Co-ordination of Natural Protected Areas. The project is aimed at the development and implementation of a strategic Master Plan for the consolidation and strengthening of the management and administration of the SINAP. Design and implementation of the Plan will ensure Mexico's institutional capacity to build, manage and sustain an effective protected areas system based on internationally recognized biodiversity conservation priorities. As such, this project will contribute directly to the more effective coordination and implementation of existing national, bilateral and multilateral-funded biodiversity conservation efforts throughout Mexico. The proposed project will build on the experience and achievements of the GEF-WB financed Pilot Phase project and will be designed to ensure complementarity with that project's results and outcomes.

It is important to note that the present proposal methodologically resumes the work of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, CIMMYT and the Sierra de Santa Marta A.C. organisation which, with resources and advice from the Global Environment Fund, prepared the study on *Social Intervention Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Santa Marta Sierra*.

Incremental to the above baseline, and complementary to the above-mentioned GEF initiatives, the full-scale project - to be developed with PDF B resources requested here -will overcome the following barriers to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity:

- Direct users, policy makers and institutional decision makers are uninformed of the economic and ecological value of biodiversity;
- Development policies are formulated in such a manner that produce unintended negative environmental consequences at the global level;
- Local stakeholders - municipal governments, farmers organizations, indigenous groups, private sector groups - have not participated in the analysis and design of sustainable uses of biodiversity due to insufficient resources and capacities;
- Technological options for sustainable management of biodiversity are undefined and untested;

- Due to lack of information and technical capacities, institutions are unable to effectively implement projects and programs aimed at promoting sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.

The full-scale project will address the above-mentioned barriers through the achievement of the following objectives, to be further developed with PDF B resources:

- *Regional multisectoral Committees for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (COBIDES).* These will be comprised of representatives from community-based organizations, NGOs, local and state governments, academic institutions and federal land-use and natural resource agencies. The principal function of the COBIDES will be to advise and assist the already established Planning Councils for Regional Development (COPLADES), co-ordinated by state governments, to incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use elements into productive sector activities and land-use planning.
- *A monitoring system to measure impacts on globally significant biodiversity and to identify best practices.* The provision of a scientific baseline and the relevant indicators for those areas identified in Block B as globally significant, will provide the foundation from which impacts can be monitored, and the effectiveness of proposed conservation and sustainable use measures assessed.
- *Policy and regulatory reform for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.* Based on the analysis of state policies, incentives and regulations governing land and resource use and sectoral activity, the full-scale project will develop - in consultation with affected stakeholders - the corresponding recommendations for reform to mitigate identified threats related to unsustainable uses of biodiversity and its conservation.
- *Training and capacity building for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.* Based on a needs assessment conducted as part of Block B preparatory activities, the full-scale project will build the technical, managerial, planning and monitoring capacities of both government and non-governmental actors at local, municipal, state and regional levels to ensure the effective integration of biodiversity principles into productive sector activities and land-use planning. This will include training in participatory development planning and the utilisation of ecological land use classification instruments, zoning methodologies and criteria.
- *Pilot implementation of biodiversity friendly technologies in priority productive sectors.* Based on an initial compendium of best alternative production practices in a variety of sectors - to be developed as part of Block B - the full-scale project will implement pilot demonstrations using the most sustainable, cost-effective and user-appropriate technologies.
- *Establishment of an information dissemination system to facilitate replication of best practices and strengthen stakeholder awareness of the value and benefits of biodiversity.* Designed as part of the Block B, the information system will make use of a variety of communication tools to reach the broadest possible audience to provide them with the required information with which to assess options and alternatives for use in decisionmaking.

II. Description of Proposed PDF Outputs and Activities

For each of the six areas, the following activities will be carried out with financing from SEMARNAP and GEF - divided as per the attached Budget by Activity - and will be implemented in close collaboration with PRODERS:

A. Product: For each area – stakeholder analyses, assessments of global biological significance, baseline assessments, basic planning documents containing strategic lines of action to address biodiversity loss.

1. Based on previous work under baseline programmes and in preparation for this project, carry out a stakeholder analysis including community-based organizations, NGOs, private sector and government agencies, to effectively determine actors affecting biodiversity, as well as those standing to benefit from biodiversity conservation and sustainable use; formally establish project partnerships and working teams, including the definition of most viable co-ordination and communication mechanisms for the implementation of the PDF B.
2. Analysis of each area's global biological significance, including a description of species richness, endemism, endangered species, and major and rare habitat types, relying on rapid evaluation criteria and existing information from the Country Study currently near completion by the CONABIO and the Enabling Activity stocktaking assessment.
3. Analysis of threats to globally significant biodiversity with identification of underlying causes and mitigative or corrective measures; preparation of basic document "Globally Important Regional Biodiversity".
4. Baseline analysis consisting of identification of all programs and projects and the degree to which these contribute to the mitigation of the identified threats; analysis of gaps by contrasting baseline with threats, and identification of potential additional activities required to mitigate threats.
5. Preparation of basic, area-specific planning documents outlining lines of action to address threats to each area's biodiversity, including preliminary costings and budgets.
6. Consultations and discussions with broadest group of stakeholders at local, municipal and regional levels, regarding the planning documents, for their approval as strategic frameworks for each area's Committee for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (COBIDES).

B. Product: Stakeholder design of area-specific, multisectoral Committees for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (COBIDES).

1. For each area, organise meetings with state governments, local authorities, state agencies, NGOs and academic institutions to explain the proposal and sign collaboration agreements; collect information to be included in a framework document for the design of the Committees for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (COBIDES) whose aim is the incorporation of biodiversity principles and practices into the planning, management and monitoring of development and conservation programs

in each area.

2. Design a proposal for integrating the different institutions and organizations into COBIDES.
3. Identification of strategies proven to be effective in motivating social participation, solidarity and participation in decision making.
4. Determine measures to strengthen mechanisms of participation and communication in each area (radio stations, community authorities, producers' organizations, groups of organizations, etc.), including close co-ordination with PRODERS activities.
5. Prepare operational and internal regulations manuals for COBIDES.
6. Agree with communities, institutions, authorities and non-governmental organizations to undertake the necessary internal measures to allow the medium-term establishment of COBIDES in each area.

C. Product: Area-specific strategies and plans to reform policy and incentive/regulatory frameworks for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

1. Review and analysis of current norms and standards regarding conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and environmental management with attention to globally important ecosystems and species.
2. Review of current legislation and incentive/regulatory frameworks guiding natural resource use, environmental management, and biodiversity conservation and sustainable uses.
3. Identification of gaps in legislation, obsolete or deficient aspects of regulations or articles whose fraudulent or out-of-context interpretation could lead to overexploitation or the destruction of biotic resources, with emphasis on local ecosystems and globally important biodiversity.
4. Formulation of proposals for reform of municipal, state, and regional legislation and regulations for the protection of ecosystems and specific species; formulation of a strategy to present and win approval for proposed reforms.

D. Product: Area-specific Programmes for Community Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Development (pilot projects of biodiversity friendly technologies in priority productive sectors).

1. Collaboration with NGOs, institutions and other groups and individuals in the identification and analysis of best alternative production practices and sustainable uses of biodiversity for the six proposed areas; production of a compendium of best alternative production practices as existing in a variety of high-priority sectors, indicating which may currently be insufficient in their dissemination and application to achieve global benefits.

2. For each area, hold a pilot programme development meeting with municipal authorities, communities, NGOs and other actors involved to determine potential application of prospective best practices on a pilot basis; determination of collaborators, practices and technologies, technical and financial support, success indicators and monitoring schemes for each pilot project within the programme.
3. Prepare a collaboration agreement among NGOs, academic institutions and communities to assist community stakeholders in implementation, dissemination and monitoring of alternative technologies on a pilot basis.
4. Promote community workshops as a means to analyse community projects and approve them as integral parts of local conservation and development plans. These workshops will include the participation of the different regional bodies whose priority areas cover the respective communities.
5. Identify dissemination channels for lessons learned, including counterpart exchanges (farmers, technicians, municipal authorities, etc.), the SIRDS, local and regional media.
6. Formulate area-specific Programmes for Community Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Development based on the agreements to establish the demonstration projects, needs for resources, training, etc., as well as the reference framework contained in the documents prepared as a result of PDF B activities.
7. Integration of the area-specific Programmes into a decentralised national Programme for Community Conservation aimed at supporting the area-specific programmes.

E. Product: Area-specific programmes for training and capacity building of sectoral planners, producers, and resource managers at the local, municipal and regional levels in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use principles and practices.

1. Based on an analysis of the needs reflected in the studies relating to global biological significance, threats, alternative technologies and the legal framework, implementation of a capacity needs assessment to determine the technical, managerial, planning and monitoring skills and needs of relevant stakeholders.
2. Definition of the desired skill profile for each of the different stakeholder groups (decision-makers, technicians, pilot producers).
3. Design training and capacity building strategies for each stakeholder group, including teaching tools (video, posters, group activities, field trips) and use of mass media (radio and press).
4. Identification of best providers of training and capacity building services for each of the different stakeholder groups.
5. In conjunction with providers, prepare training programs for the different stakeholder groups.

6. Organise workshops to analyse the programs and to achieve institutional commitments to participate in training programmes.

F. Product: Area-specific monitoring systems to function as integral parts of PRODERS monitoring systems to measure status, trends and impacts on globally significant biodiversity of current land-use planning and practices and the application of best practices.

1. Based on information and analyses derived from previous baseline and PDF B activities, identification of objectively verifiable indicators to be monitored to determine the status of biodiversity resources and trends relevant to their sustained use and conservation; selection of indicators will be based on definition of area boundaries and the project's scope of action, causal relationships between current land-use practices, potential best practices and biodiversity status, potential monitoring partners, and availability and feasibility of monitoring technologies;
2. Identification of most cost-effective means of verification, and design of monitoring and reporting mechanisms.
3. Design of monitoring information databases and integration into PRODERS Regional Information Systems for Sustainable Development, with application of GIS.
4. Costing of biodiversity monitoring systems and analysis of financial sustainability.
5. Identification of strategies to sustain biodiversity monitoring systems financially and institutionally over the long-term.
6. Consultation with prospective COBIDES stakeholder groups to present monitoring proposals for review and revisions, as necessary.

G. Product: Information and communication programmes and instruments to facilitate dissemination and replication of best practices and to strengthen stakeholder awareness of the value and benefits of biodiversity.

1. Formulation, with COBIDES stakeholder groups, of information/communication strategies for each area, including identification of goals and objectives, identification and analysis of target audiences, analysis of existing, most cost-effective delivery mechanisms (radio, TV, internet, print media, sectoral publications, etc.), potential partners and collaborative arrangements, financing requirements, potential awareness-raising activities for media, etc.
2. Design of non-internet information/communication programmes, including costing and budgets, and consultation with COBIDES groups.
3. For internet-based information/communication systems, analysis of SIRDS, potential for integration of biodiversity-based information subsystem into SIRDS, and potential user profiles.

4. Design of biodiversity information subsystem (computer equipment required, software, intranet), including specific data base contents, operations and consultation manuals, user interfaces (Internet page, data base consulting software), operations and personnel organisation manual, and installation and operations budget.
5. Presentation to COBIDES stakeholder groups and formulation of a collaborative agreement to feed information into the data base.

H. Product: Full-scale project document and project brief for presentation to GEF, integrating area-specific programmes and products of PDF B into a single proposal for decentralised but co-ordinated actions to conserve and use biodiversity sustainably in six priority areas as part of the broader Programmes for Regional Sustainable Development (PRODERS) .

1. Using the logical framework methodology, review, with each area's COBIDES stakeholder groups and PRODERS staff, the above-mentioned area-specific products and integrate them into subprojects; production of SubProject Planning Matrices. Each subproject will serve as each area's COBIDES work plan.
2. Based on the monitoring indicators and means of verification identified in the creation of each PPM, develop comprehensive monitoring and evaluation programs for each subproject of the full-scale project.
3. Based on outputs and activities, identify inputs and costs, preparation of the subproject budget, and delineation of incremental and baseline funding. Prepare the final subproject budget proposal.
4. Make a financial evaluation of conservation and development activities, and determine sustainable baseline costs and incremental costs.
5. Determine, from among the incremental activities identified, which are consistent with GEF criteria and which may be susceptible to cofinancing.
6. Identify the national and international cofinancing sources to complement incremental and baseline funding.
7. Consult with the project team, representatives of communities and institutions in each area, the economic expert and the financing agencies (GEF and SEMARNAP) to analyse and approve the budget.
8. With representatives of each prospective COBIDES and PRODERS, use the logical framework methodology to integrate the subprojects into a single full-scale project proposal with Project Planning Matrix, integrated budget, justification and description of full project co-ordination and implementation modalities, with the aim of achieving synergy, complementarity and economies of scale among the six areas and subprojects and their full integration into PRODERS.

III. Eligibility

Mexico ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity on March 11, 1993. The scope and objectives of this project are consistent with the guidance provided in Operational Programs 1,3 and 4, Arid and Semi-arid Ecosystems, Forest Ecosystems, and Mountain Ecosystems, respectively.

IV. National Support

In recent years, there has been growing recognition in Mexico that its diverse ecosystems and biodiversity are threatened by deforestation, accelerated economic development and arbitrary settlement policies.

In response to these threats, the Government of Mexico (GoM) developed a strategy for protecting critical habitats in the late 1980s. The main policy goals included: (a) integration of protection and sustainable development of natural resources with social, economic, and modernization processes needed for development; (b) making ecosystems conservation compatible with the need for rational natural resource use to support sustained community development; and (c) ensuring the recovery, protection and conservation of natural resources and the equilibrium of ecosystems. The Secretariat for the Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries (SEMARNAP) is responsible for the design and oversight of implementation of the GoM's policies on environment, natural resources management, and fisheries.

To meet GoM's environmental objectives, SEMARNAP has been charged with promoting "inter-institutional co-ordination for the design, execution and evaluation of programs for sustainable regional development." SEMARNAP has initiated the design and implementation of Programs for Sustainable Regional Development (PRODERS) aimed at establishing decentralised sustainable development processes in priority areas of the country.

Each PRODERS is established in a formal, collaborative agreement among SEMARNAP, the Secretariat for Social Development, the Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development, the National Institute for Indigenous Affairs, state agencies, municipalities, academic institutions, NGOs and stakeholder organizations. The project, to be developed with PDF B funding requested here, will be incorporated directly into the relevant PRODERS and will thus receive the support of a wide variety of federal and state agencies, NGOs and stakeholder organizations.

V. Justification

The six regions proposed in this project contain significant portions of ecoregions considered to be of High or Highest Priority at Regional Scale for investment in biodiversity conservation (see Chart 1, Annex) and are adjacent to priority conservation areas defined by CONABIO in accordance with criteria of representation, endemism, extension, marginality and anthropic pressure (see attached map).

The physical, biological and environmental characteristics of these six areas, as well as the different baseline programs currently under execution in them, are described in detail in Annex 2.

VII. Items to be Financed

a) Budget by Output

PDF B Budget		
Output	Cost (US\$)	
	GEF	SEMARNAP
Stakeholder analyses, assessments of global biological significance, baseline assessments, basic planning documents containing strategic lines of action to address biodiversity loss.	91,500	65,000
Stakeholder design of area-specific, multisectoral Committees for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (COBIDES).	25,000	83,000
Area-specific strategies and plans to reform policy and incentive/regulatory frameworks for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	36,000	0
Area-specific Programmes for Community Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Development (pilot projects of biodiversity friendly technologies in priority productive sectors)	0	180,000
Area-specific programmes for training and capacity building of sectoral planners, producers, and resource managers at the local, municipal and regional levels in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use principles and practices.	110,000	0
Area-specific monitoring systems to function as integral parts of PRODERS monitoring systems to measure status, trends and impacts on globally significant biodiversity of current land-use planning and practices and the application of best practices	0	69,000
Information and communication programmes and instruments to facilitate dissemination and replication of best practices and to strengthen stakeholder awareness of the value and benefits of biodiversity.	0	83,000
Full-scale project document and project brief for presentation to GEF, integrating area-specific programmes and products of PDF B into a single proposal for decentralised but co-ordinated actions to conserve and use biodiversity sustainably in six priority areas as part of the broader Programmes for Regional Sustainable Development (PRODERS) .	87,500	77,600
TOTAL	US\$ 350,000	US\$ 558,600

Annex 1

PROPOSAL TO DEFINE AND STRUCTURE COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (COBIDES)

The Committees for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Development are inclusive structures composed of local and regional civil organizations, authorities at all levels of government, development agencies, academic institutions and any other organisation with interests in conservation and regional development. COBIDES propose to be the bodies for joint planning of investment and collaboration programs for conservation and development at the regional level. While membership is voluntary and members' terms of reference are established by the members themselves, it is expected that, once consolidated, they will be responsible for programming resources and be the first recourse for settling conflicts concerned with the management of natural resources.

During the consolidation stage, COBIDES should devote their efforts on the following:

To have defined objectives, methods and goals, oriented towards the conservation of local biodiversity through sustainable development.

To enjoy the exclusive attributions and obligations that motivate members' interest (regulations regarding the use of natural resources, approval of guidelines on the extraction of resources and marketing franchises, decision-making power in relation to the use of financing for sustainable development, etc.).

To replace isolated administrative structures with an intersectoral and interinstitutional co-ordination body.

To obtain financial resources such that regional actors are able to implement productive conservation actions.

To be legally empowered to manage resources and represent the interests of their members, if so required.

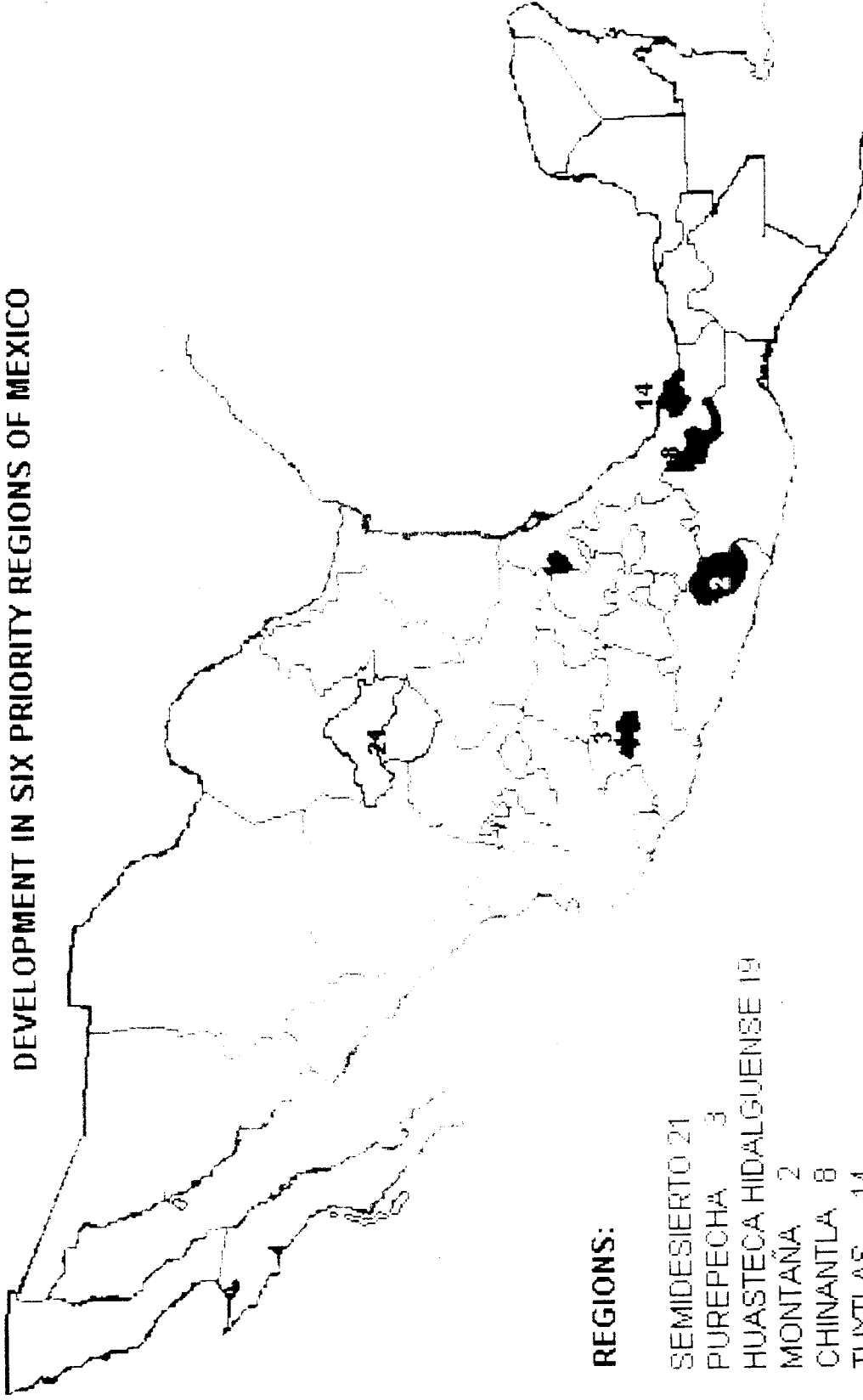
To provide information within and outside the region.

Internally, a structure such as that described as follows will be the means for participation and decision-making. The Board of Directors will be composed of municipal representatives, who will serve as spokespersons for the communities after their designations have been recorded in the minutes of the General Assembly meetings; duly legalised producers' organizations registered with COBIDES; representatives of participating development agencies (with investment programs in the region); and the regional co-ordinator of COBIDES.

Non-governmental organizations and academic institutions will not in principle be part of the

COBIDES authorities; however, they will be invited to participate in the activities that result from the agreements made by the Board of Directors and the General Assembly, preferably by forming part of a formal advisory panel. The NGOs that are registered with COBIDES will be part of the directory of agencies that act as formulators and executors of the projects resulting from conservation and regional development planning.

**CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN SIX PRIORITY REGIONS OF MEXICO**



REGIONS:

- SEMIDESIERTO 21
- PUREPECHA 3
- HUASTECA HIDALGUENSE 19
- MONTAÑA 2
- CHINANTLA 8
- TUXTLAS 14

Annex 2. Detailed description of the six project areas:

1. *Los Tuxtlas-Sierra de Santa Marta, Veracruz*

This region encompasses an important part of the northernmost section of the Tehuantepec moist forest ecoregion - endangered; bioregionally outstanding; high priority at regional scale - and is currently populated by mestizos and indigenous groups of *Zoque-Popolucas* and *Nahuas*. This project is proposed to work in the pilot communities of Santa Marta, Plan Agrario, Guadalupe Victoria, Mazumiapan Chico, Benigno Mendoza, Santanon Rodriguez, Pajapan, Adolfo Lopez Mateos, Miguel Hidalgo, Venustiano Carranza, San Fernando, Moreno Peninsula, Belen Grande, Perla de San Martin, Sontecomapan and others which are also within the zone included in the current proposal for the Los Tuxtlas Biosphere Reserve.

Habitat and species loss in this region is occurring primarily from conversion of habitat to cattle ranching. While 27,432 hectares are currently estimated to contain important habitat and species, there are 54,300 hectares under protection as follows: 28,500 to the Zona Protectora Forestal Vedada "Cuenca Hidrográfica de la Laguna de Catemaco"; 5,533 to the Zona Protectora Forestal y de Refugio Faunístico "Volcan de San Martín" and 20,000 to the Zona Protectora Forestal y Refugio de la Fauna Silvestre "Sierra de Santa Marta", however most of them severely altered. Current development programs and projects, all of them combining to some extent strategies for conservation of biodiversity include:

Regularization by SEMARNAP of breeding farms and permits in the Maritime-Land Federal Zone, credits for agroforestry and livestock plantations, forestry nurseries, stud farms for white tail deer (Perla de San Martín and Perla del Golfo) and dry latrines (Jicaral, El Pescador and Meyacapan) with PRODERS funds and credits from the Agriculture Related Trust Funds (FIRA-World Bank). Also being encouraged is the study of productive alternatives and the ecological regulation of the Los Tuxtlas-Santa Marta communities. The objective of these programs is to generate processes that will balance economic growth with a better quality of life and the conservation of natural resources. PRODERS plans to invest \$ 1,245,98.00 and \$ 2,281,100.00 this year and next year, respectively, to be channeled to the specific projects detailed in Annex 2.

In addition, the Office of the Attorney General for the Protection of the Environment (PROFEPA) is responsible for controlling the clandestine use of wildlife flora and fauna, both land and aquatic. With a focus towards productive conservation, programs to legalize the use of biotic and water resources are being implemented by the National Ecology Institute and the National Water Commission, both within SEMARNAP.

On the other hand, the region is benefiting from the PROCAMPO program which encourages the production of basic crops and the acquisition of agricultural machinery; since 1996 PROCEDE has been redirecting this program along three strategic paths: capitalization, productive reconversion and the natural resources preservation. These programs are carried out by the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural

Development (SAGAR).

There are also reforestation projects with native species, marketing non-timber-yielding woodland products and alternative crops, credits for breeding wild species, nurseries and agroforestry plantations, all under the auspices of the State Secretariat of Agricultural Development (SEDAP). SEDAP is responsible for the implementation of the Sectoral Forestry Plan of the State of Veracruz, which essentially comprises: management of woodland, forests, plantations, as well as the supply and industrialization of forestry products, conservation of biodiversity, training, research and institutional support.

Urban regulation is the responsibility of the Secretariat of Urban Development and Ecology of the State (SEDUVER) and is being applied principally in the towns of Santiago Tuxtla, San Andrés Tuxtla and Catemaco.

Also being developed are programs on Women in Solidarity, Agricultural Day Laborers and the National Reforestation Program, which are being financed by federal resources from the Municipal Development Fund and the Fund to Promote Employment, with the Secretariat of Social Development (SEDESOL) as the coordinating agency. These resources have been used to encourage actions such as supporting rustic woodworking craftsmen, cleaning lakes, installing latrines, constructing dormitories in pine and sugar cane areas and producing high commercial value native species cash crops.

Some specific projects are being applied in the region according to the modality of the Regional Solidarity Funds with resources from the Nahua-Zoque-Popoluca Indigenist Coordinating Center of the Tuxtlas of the National Institute for Indigenist Affairs (INI). They include those created by the Self-financing Revolving Fund for livestock, forestry, fishery and aquatic activities. Programs on health, direct food assistance, construction of school hostels, cultivation of medicinal and herbal plants, construction of dry latrines, cedar reforestation, the production of maize, coffee and papaya, also have been developed.

Finally, on a pilot scale, the National Forest and Agricultural Research Institute is developing a program to build live walls with quick-growing trees to fix nitrogen, such as *Gliricidia sepium*.

All the above-mentioned programs and projects are part of the National Development Plan and are promoted by governmental agencies; they are applied in all the municipalities in the region, except in specific cases and, in general, are development proposals that are widely accepted by the direct beneficiaries but which lack a focus on sustainability and interinstitutional co-ordination; this normally means damage to the conservation state of natural resources and they are very inefficient as to the use of funds and human resources.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also carry out projects in the zone, among which special mention may be made of:

Studies on the environmental, socio-economic and political situation of the Sierra de

Santa Marta to explore rural development and natural resources conservation alternatives, carried out by the Sierra de Santa Marta Project in co-ordination with other institutions such as CIMMYT and with the technical advice and financial support of the Global Environment Fund (GEF); the Territorial Ecological Ordinances of the Tuxtlas region prepared by The Ecology Institute, A.C.; research on the biology and ecology of the forests of the southeast carried out by the Tuxtlas Tropical Biological Station (UNAM), with the objective of preserving a rain forest area; the tropical wildlife Pipiapan Park of Flora and Fauna of the University of Veracruz, which is dedicated to aspects of environmental education; the 220 hectares in the area surrounding the San Martín volcano where conservation work is to be done; the Ecological Rescue Group of Veracruz has 300 hectares in the area surrounding the San Martín volcano where they are doing conservation work; some smaller-scale projects such as the installation of orchid nurseries and activities to disseminate information about orchids are carried out by the Tuxtlas orchid growers' association. In another sphere, the Regional Center for Education and Organisation has productive projects on family kitchen gardens, the preparation of composts, individual house building with local materials and the cultivation of wildlife flora. There is an initiative by the Center for Ecological Culture of the Tuxtlas to establish a Botanical Garden and an Ecological History Museum. Also being undertaken is the recovery and drainage of the Tepango river under the auspices of the Ecological Committee for Citizen Participation of Santiago Tuxtla. Finally, economic support is provided by Altos Hornos de México (AHMSA) for activities in the region's protected areas.

The region's PRODERS has been in existence since 1996 and its aim is to launch the Regional Council for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Development which it is proposed should be composed of the following agencies and organizations:

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|----------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------|---------|----------|--|
| (Governmental agencies) | Secretariat of Social Development
Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural
Development
SEMARNAP
Secretariat of Ecology and Urban Development of
Veracruz
Secretariat of Agricultural Development of Veracruz | | | | | | | | |
| (Municipalities) | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Catemaco</td> <td>San Andrés Tuxtla</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Santiago Tuxtla</td> <td>Hueyapan de Ocampo</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mecayapan</td> <td>Pajapan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Soteapan</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | Catemaco | San Andrés Tuxtla | Santiago Tuxtla | Hueyapan de Ocampo | Mecayapan | Pajapan | Soteapan | |
| Catemaco | San Andrés Tuxtla | | | | | | | | |
| Santiago Tuxtla | Hueyapan de Ocampo | | | | | | | | |
| Mecayapan | Pajapan | | | | | | | | |
| Soteapan | | | | | | | | | |
| (Academic Institution) | National Autonomous University of Chapingo | | | | | | | | |
| (Producers' organizations) | Cerro Cintepec Cooperative (coffee) | | | | | | | | |
| organizations) | La Flor de Catemaco Rural Production Society (palm trees) | | | | | | | | |
| | Costa de Los Tuxtlas Producers' Cooperative (forestry) | | | | | | | | |
| | Tropical de los Tuxtlas Tropical S.S.S. (forestry) | | | | | | | | |
| | Las Vegas de Comoapan S.S.S. (forestry) | | | | | | | | |
| | Basket makers of Pajapan | | | | | | | | |

Basket makers of Encino Armadillo
Groups of palm tree growers) San Fernando, Miguel Hidalgo, Santa Maria, Pajapan)
Groups of vanilla growers (Pajapan, Tatahuicapan, Venustiano Carranza, Santanón, San Fernando, San Juan Volador, Mecayapan)
Organisation of Coffee Growers of Arroyo Xochiapa
Organisation of Coffee Growers of Sierra de Santa

Marta

(NGOs)

Organisation of Coffee Growers of Cerro de Cintepec
San Juan Volador Fishermen's S.S.S.
Pescador community S.S.S.
Grupo Ecologista de los Tuxtlas A.C. (ecologist group)
Guardianes del Tlalocan A.C.
Anfitriones de Los Tuxtlas
CEDIM
Hábitat, A.C.
DECOTUX
Fomento Cultural y Educativo A.C.
Proyecto Sierra de Santa Marta A.C.
Instituto de Ecología A.C.

2. *La Chinantla, Oaxaca*

This area is in the northwest zone of the Tehuantepec Moist Forest ecoregion; because of its biological wealth, as well as the growing menace of the disappearance of its primary vegetation cover, it is considered to be of maximum priority in terms of conservation of regional biodiversity. It is inhabited by groups of Chinantecos and mestizos with which this project proposes to work in a pilot form with the inhabitants of the following communities: Monte Tinta, in the municipality of Ayotzintepec; Santiago Tlapeusco and Nueva Santa Flora, municipality of San Felipe Usila; Santa Cecilia and Arroyo Blanco, municipality of San Juan Lalana; and San Rafael Agua Pescadito, Cerro de Pita and Arroyo de Banco, municipality of San Juan Bautista Valle Nacional.

The main causes of the disappearance of the region's biological wealth are the reduction of the clearing-felling-burning intervals and the establishment of cattle ranches on hillsides. Despite the existence of 247,943.4 conserved hectares with different types of rain forests, among which are noteworthy the Perennial Highland Forest and the Mesophyllic Mountain Forest, the region has no protected natural area modality.

Official development programs focused on agricultural and the conservation of the most important natural resources include support for the establishment and cultivation of rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*), ixtle (*Agave salmiana*), camedor palm (*Chamaedorea spp.*), vanilla (*Vanilla planiflora*), etc. In 1997 and 1998 the La Chinantla PRODERS received investments of \$ 1,001,000.00 and \$ 2,756,100.00 respectively, allocated in accordance with the programming mentioned in Annex 2. As with the other regions, the PRODERS started work in Chinantla in 1996.

With respect to the NGOs, there are two main programs designed to promote the appropriate use of biodiversity as a feasible alternative to conservation. The Mesophyllic Group concentrates its action on productive diversification of domestic farmer units in the Chinantla highlands (San Felipe Usila), incorporating the use of non-timber-yielding forest resources to produce marketable goods. Similarly, the PAIR-UNAM emphasizes the increase in production of traditional crops and productive diversity based on the management of the natural resources of the Chinantla highlands (San Felipe Usila) and lowlands (San Lucas Ojitlán and Valle Nacional). The following NGOs are also present in the region: CAMPO, A.C., Servicios de Apoyo Local para el Desarrollo de Base, A.C. (SALDEBAS) and Studios y Proyectos para el Desarrollo Sustentable, A.C. (EPADES), which have high-level technical teams. Their activities, at the request of other governmental and non-governmental agencies, are mainly directed at making regional analyses of the production problem and formulation of projects.

Since 1996 the PRODERS has sought, through policy co-ordination between the different stakeholders in the region, to constitute a Regional Council for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Development, which would include the following Agencies and Organizations:

(Governmental agencies)	Secretariat of Social Development Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development SEMARNAP Secretariat of Rural Development (State Government) Secretariat of Agriculture (State Government) Office of the Attorney General for Agriculture
(Municipalities)	Ayotzintepec, San Felipe Usila San Juan Lalana, San Juan Bautista, Valle Nacional
(Academic Institutions)	Agricultural Technological Institute, San Bartolo Tuxtepec
(Producers' organizations)	National Autonomous University of Mexico Sierra Lalana Indigenous Producers Union Chinantla Regional Solidarity Fund
(NGOs)	CAMPO, A.C. Servicios de Apoyo Local para el Desarrollo de Base, A.C. Grupo del Mesófilo, A.C. Estudios y Proyectos para el Desarrollo Sustentable, A.C.

3. *La Huasteca, Hidalgo*

This region is in the northern part of the Tehuantepec Moist Forest ecoregion. It is inhabited by Nahuas and mestizos in the municipalities of Huejutla, Huazalingo, Orizatlán, Jaltocan, Atlapexco, Huautla, Yahualica and Xochiatipan. Environmental deterioration in the region became notorious in the 1970's when the National Forest

Clearing Commission went to the Huasteca region to promote a change in soil use. The hillsides were soon invaded by clearing practices to plant maize, the establishment of breeding native species and, finally, the establishment of monoculture fruit plantations, mainly oranges and papaya. Another important factor in deforestation has been the extraction of fine tropical hardwoods.

Although there is no common agreement about the extension of the land that is still covered by primary vegetation, it may be assumed that the region has approximately 40,000 hectares of forest zones with different degrees of intervention; however, no type of protection exists in any area. As in the cases described earlier, governmental agencies have established development programs which, in different degrees, contemplate productive reconversion towards sustainability, although the lack of co-ordination and failure to use allocated resources for the purpose for which they were assigned leaves the problem unsolved. Here it is worth making special mention of the initiative of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development (SAGAR), in co-ordination with the Government of the State, to remote of which the Indigenous Zones Productive Sustainable Development Program is promoted; this program is participatory as to planning productive investment and, at the same time, proposes to place more emphasis on the utilisation of natural resources by means of sustainable practices. In 1997, for the project on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources alone the sum of \$ 1,000,000.00 was allocated; this covers activities leading to the establishment of agroforestry plantations, nurseries, the management of natural forests and the use of non-timber-yielding forest species such as the camedor palm (*Chamaedorea spp.*). The market for this palm has shown a notable increase and the SAGAR has provided a storage warehouse to give the collectors access to better markets. It is thought that an important part of the palm sold comes from nurseries and sites where there is induced regeneration of this species.

PRODERS resources for 1997 were \$ 1,687,670.00 for 1997 and for 1998 the amount allocated is \$ 1,826,500.00 (see Annex 2). One of the pilot communities proposed by SEMARNAP for these projects is San Juan Huazalingo, including neighboring villages such as San Pedro and Tlatzonco, where an integral program is being planned on Conservation and Use of Wildlife Flora and Fauna in co-ordination with the Agricultural Technological Institute (ITA) and the Municipality. The forests of San Juan Huazalingo are still rich in animal species that poachers from other zones come in search of, such as the temazate (a dwarf deer) and the wild boar; they also have an abundance of varieties of birds, amphibians and reptiles whose conservation is a priority. The Program contemplates actions on research and monitoring of endangered species and habitats, inventories of flora and fauna, development of systems on the sustainable use of biological wealth as well as training on legal aspects that will allow the inhabitants to defend their resource. In this respect it is proposed to strengthen the protection of the zone by using brigades of inspectors and guards drawn from the producers themselves and supported by personnel from the Office of the Federal Attorney General for the Protection of the Environment (PROFEPA). The proposal considers the establishment of a Conservation, (UMAS) which will cover the remaining activities.

The only non-governmental organisation working in the region is Mazehualtzitzi Inincentiliz, which has traditionally dedicated its efforts to the protection of human

rights, but which recently has become interested in developing technical assistance projects on environmental production and protection.

PRODERS has been working in the region since 1996. It is hoped that the present project will lead to co-ordination within COBIDES of the following regional bodies:

(Governmental agencies)	Secretariat of Social Development Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development SEMARNAP Secretariats of Rural Development (State government) Secretariat of Agriculture (State government) Office of the Attorney General for Agriculture	
(Municipalities)	Huejutla Orizatlán Atlapexco Yahualica	Huazalingo Jaltocan Huautla Xochiatipan
(Academic institutions)	Autonomous University of Hidalgo Agricultural Technological Institute	
(Producers' organizations)	Consejo Permanente de Organizaciones Campesinas Unión Campesina de Fondos de Inversión para la Huasteca Hidalguense	para el D
(NGO)	Mazehualtzitzi Inincentiliiz	

4. *The Purépecha Plateau, Michoacán*

The Purépecha Plateau is in the west portion of Mexico's transvolcanic pine and oak forests ecoregion which is catalogued as of maximum regional priority for Latin America and the Caribbean. This project proposes to implement conservation of biodiversity actions in this region on two levels. On the regional level it plans to include agencies and organizations with interests in each of the municipalities involved (Charapan, Cherán, Chilchota, Nahuatzen, Nuevo Parangaricutiro, Paracho, Peribán, Los Reyes, Tancítaro, Teretan, Tingambato, Uruapan and Zitacuaro); on the local level, work will take place in five pilot communities in some of the municipalities listed). This region is mostly inhabited by indigenous groups of Purépechas and mestizos. The principal factors that are affecting the conservation of the habitat and native species are felling trees to obtain firewood, followed by the establishment of meadows for sheep grazing; clearing for agricultural purposes is also very important, as well as illegal hunting and fishing. In 1991, 24.93% of the soil (52,625.5 hectares) was covered by forest, mainly on ejido and communal land held by groups of Purépechas, while most of the land held by smallholders had been cleared for agriculture. There are absolutely no protected areas in the region.

There are official programs which in different ways are causing an impact on the conservation of natural resources: the Certification of Land Rights Program (PROCEDE), by the Federal Government (Agrarian Attorney General) is issuing land rights certificates once the land is demarcated. Progress is not the same in all areas of the region because of the large number of land conflicts between communities. The

Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development has a program, PROCAMPO, for the production of basic crops, trees and fodder. Unfortunately, the predominant maize-based agriculture does not fit well with the interpretation of the program by local officials so that PROCAMPO has not produced the hoped-for results.

The Secretariat of Social Development and the Government of the State promote the Word of Honour credit which seeks to help farmers with credits to buy agricultural inputs at low rates of interest; it is a response to requests for services, encouraging local organisation for production and marketing, providing scholarships, etc. Together with SEMARNAP and the State Secretariat of Agricultural and Forestry Development, they implement the National Reforestation Program (PRONARE), which operates in co-ordination with the municipalities; in 1996 \$ 26,000,000.00 were invested through PRONARE for the conservation and maintenance of forest plantations, the prevention of fires, the establishment of nurseries and reforestation activities. The other program is the Sustainable Development Program which, through PRODERS, has been present in the region since 1996 and has provided resources amounting to \$1,568,950 and \$ 2,028,900.00 for 1997 and 1998 respectively.

Among the objectives of this project is the installation of a Regional Committee for Conservation and Sustainable Development which provides space for participatory planning of conservation of biodiversity and development actions with which the different bodies with interests in the Purépecha Plateau may collaborate. Among those, it is considered important that the following should be involved:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| (Governmental agencies) | Secretariat of Social Development
Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development
SEMARNAP
Secretariats of Rural Development (State Government)
Secretariat of Agriculture (State Government)
Agrarian Attorney General's Office | |
| (Municipalities) | Charapan
Chilchota
Nuevo Parangaricutiro
Peribán
Tancítaro
Tingambato
Zitacuero | Cherán
Nahuatzen
Paracho
Los Reyes
Teretan
Uruapan |
| (Academic Institutions) | Ecology Institute, National Autonomous University of Mexico
Biology School, San Nicolás de Hidalgo University,
Michoacan | |
| (Producers' organizations) | Cherán Regional Solidarity Fund
Unión de Permissionarios Forestales de la Meseta Tarasca, | A.C. |
| (NGOs) | Instituto de Ecología, A.C.
Servicios Alternativos para la Education y el Desarrollo
Estudios y Proyectos para el Desarrollo Sustentable, A.C. | (S) |

5. *La Montaña, Guerrero*

La Montaña is in the eastern part of the Balsas river basin. It is composed of ecosystems and habitats that are of maximum priority for conservation of regional biodiversity since it has ecosystems that extend from the Deciduous Lower Forest in the lowlands to the Temperate Forest in the highest part of the Sierra, so that there are different microenvironments which, in turn, are associated with the management of a great cultural wealth. This region is inhabited mainly by indigenous groups of Mixtecos, Nahuas and Tiapanecos and, to a lesser extent, mestizos. The present project is designed to work on a regional level in seventeen municipalities in the region (Acatgepec, Ahuacuotzingo, Alcozauca de Guerrero, Alpoyeca, Atlamajalcingo del Monte, Copanatoyac, Cualac, Huammuxtitlán, Malinaltepec, Metlatonoc, Olinalá, Tlacoapa, Tlaxitgaquilla de Maldonado, Tlapa de Comonfort, Xalpatlahuac, Xochihuehuatlán and Zapotitlán Tablas) and on a local level in pilot communities in different ecological zones throughout the region. The principal agents causing the disappearance of species and ecosystems are related to agricultural and forestry production. The process of taking trees from the highlands causes the complete disappearance of the vegetation which is hard to regenerate because exploitation is not rationally planned and also because small ruminants are allowed to graze, thus eliminating the new cover. Clearing-felling-burning agriculture has been modified because of the use of chemicals and the increase in pressure for arable land, reducing the period when the land is fallow and the opening up of new areas at the expense of the primary forest.

Of the region's 861,940 hectares, there are still 200,804 hectares (23.30%) covered by woodlands and forests in a good state of conservation. There are no protected areas to guarantee the conservation of the biological wealth that still exists in the La Montaña region.

The government's development strategy is shaped by the Program for Sustainable Regional Development of the State of Guerrero in La Montaña, which is the result of an agreement between secretariats and the state and municipal governments and which commits them to actions of co-ordination to ensure compliance with the National Development Plan (1885-2000). The establishment of this long-term agreement is notable because, thanks to it, the three levels of government (federal, state and municipal) are brought together in a joint effort and, thus, there is no contradiction in their ecological conservation and productive development activities and duplication is avoided. The general lines of work followed are: the preparation of the Regional Sustainable Development Program; preparation of pilot community ordinances; development of a regional information system; work on soil conservation, ecological restoration with native species, agroforestry and agroforestry-pastoral systems; promotion of irrigated agriculture; repopulation of fauna and flora; establishment of genetic reservoirs; solution of agrarian conflicts; improved housing; creation of ecological reserves; research on the potential for aquaculture and aquaculture breeding; establishment of nurseries of native species useful for agroforestry, agroforestry-pastoral and medicinal plant systems; sustainable management of timber-yielding and non-timber-yielding resources; use of bodies of water for improved agricultural production; ecotourism projects; commercial plantations; inspection and supervision; strengthening producers' organizations as well as participatory planning; promotion of appropriate technology use; support for the production of basic and

backyard grains; productive reconversion to more profitable activities; generation of jobs by productive diversification; rehabilitation and construction of the infrastructure to facilitate marketing; and the promotion of women's participation in the economy.

For 1996 investments were committed for a total of \$ 20,295,942.00 from all the agencies involved. For 1997 and 1998, the PRODERS of La Montaña planned to invest, within the framework of the Regional Sustainable Development Program described above, the amounts of \$ 1,829,3350.00 and \$ 2,792,500.00 respectively.

There are also different projects under the auspices of NGOs, among which mention should be made of the project to improve productive systems by the use of green compost, executed by the Program on the Integral Use of Natural Resources and financed by the Rockefeller Foundation with \$ 1,000,000.00 pesos for five years. The Faculty of Sciences of the UNAM is carrying out a productive conservation project financed by SEMARNAP and a research project on the use of native species with resources of \$150,000.00 pesos from Conservation International funds in the municipality of Alcozauca. The Mennonite Party has programs in operation in support of production with projects on organic fertilization and other activities such as the improvement of housing in the communities of the Municipality of Tlapa de Comonfort.

PRODERS has been developing actions in La Montaña since 1996. The present project hopes to establish a Regional Committee for Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Development which will include the following bodies:

(Governmental agencies)	Secretariat of Social Development	
	Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development	
	SEMARNAP	
	Secretariat of Rural Development (State Government)	
	Secretariat of Agriculture (State Government)	
	Office of the Agrarian Attorney General	
(Municipalities)	Acatepec	Ahuacuotzingo
	Alcozauca de Guerrero	Alpoyeca
	Atlamajalcingo del Monte	Atlixnac
	Copalillo	Copanatoyac
	Cualac	Chilapa de Alvarez
	Huamuxtitlán	Malinaltepec
	Metlatonoc	Olinalá
	Tlacoapa	Tlalixtaquilla de Maldonado

	Tlapa de Comonfort	Xalpatlahuac
	Xochihuehuetlán	Zapotitlán Tablas
(Academic Institutions)	Universidad Autónoma de Guerrero	
	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México	
(Producers' organizations)	S.S.S. Mantis Religiosa	
	S.S.S. Cerro de las Estrellas	
	Fondo Regional de Solidaridad de la Montaña de Guerrero	
	S.S.S. Tejedores de la Palma	
	S.S.S. San Pedro Aytec	
	S.S.S. Unión Regional Agropecuaria, Forestal y Agroindustrial de Ejidos, Comunidades y Peq. Propietarios (URAFaecPPM-G)	
(NGOs)	Unión de Ejidos y Comunidades Luz de la Montaña	
	Tlachinollan, A. C.	
	SAGROIN, A. C.	
	Estudios y Proyectos para el Desarrollo Sustentable, A.C.	

6. *Durango-Coahuila Semiarid Region*

This region is in the southwestern part of the Ixtlera Candelillera region in the Chihuahua semiarid area, which was classified of maximum priority for conservation of biodiversity at the Meeting on Ecological Regionalization to Determine Priority Areas for Conservation of the Chihuahua Desert, held in October 1997 at the Monterrey Technological Institute. The decisions taken at the meeting were based on criteria of uniqueness, ecological service, biological wealth, endemism and the potential to establish biological corridors. It is important to point out that this region contains outstanding ecosystems such as the Jimulco Sierra which is to the northeast of Cuencamé, in the state of Durango; the zones of the Viesca Dunes, in Coahuila; the Northern Rim of the Mayrán Lagoon, where one of Mexico's best conserved mesquite areas is located. It is also important to mention its vicinity to the Bolsón de Mapimi and Cuatrociénegas Biosphere Reserves, with their mitigation function towards those protected areas.

With regard to the state of vegetation conservation, of the 534,100 hectares of the municipalities of S.J. de Guadalupe and General Simón Bolívar, in Durango, there are still 189,120 hectares of forest zones (timber-yielding and non-timber-yielding); however, it is estimated that only 106,340 hectares are in a good state of conservation. In the case of the municipalities of Francisco I. Madero, Viesca and San Pedro de las Colonias, in Coahuila, of the 1,907,980 hectares, only 541,130 hectares remain with vegetation in a good conservation. There are no protected areas of any kind in the region.

The most significant support programs for agricultural development and sustainable management of natural resources by the federal and state governments are: the Alliance for the Countryside (SAGAR) which, in 1996, invested \$ 22,191,6570.00, although it should be stressed that most of this investment was for irrigation; and resources from Item 026 of the federal budget which CONAZA-SEDESOL allocated to the municipalities and the Regional Sustainable Development Programs of SEMARNAP

with \$ 2,732,720.00 in 1997 for projects listed in Annex 2. An investment of \$ 2,869,500.00 is programmed for 1998. There are also federal programs as part of the national policy to support agriculture and the fight against poverty, such as the Shared-Risk Trust Fund (FIRCO) and the National Arid Zones Commission (CONAZA).

PRODERS has been working in this region since 1996. An immediate goal by the present project is to constitute COBIDES with the collaboration of the following national, regional, municipal and local bodies:

(Governmental agencies)	Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development SEMARNAP Secretariat of Rural Development (State Government) Secretariat of Agricultural Development (State Government) Office of the Agrarian Attorney General Arid Zones National Commission (SEDESOL) Shared Irrigation Trust Fund (FIRCO)
(Municipalities)	San Pedro, Coah. Francisco I. Madero, Coah. Viesca, Coah. San Juan de Guadalupe, Durango. General Simón Bolívar, Durango.
(Producers' organizations)	Unión de Ejidos Felipe Ángeles Unión de Ejidos del Valle de las Delicias S.S.S. La Gran Batalla Comité Regional Campesino de San Juan de Guadalupe Comité Regional Campesino de General Simón Bolívar
(Academic institutions)	Universidad Autónoma Agraria Antonio Narro Unidad Laguna Instituto Tecnológico Agropecuario N° 10 Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila
(NGO)	Estudios y Proyectos para el Desarrollo Sustentable, A.C.

CHART 1. Ecoregions and proposed PRODRS priority regions (see *A Conservation Assessment of the Terrestrial Ecoregions of Latin America and the Caribbean* by Dinerstein, E., D. M. Olson, D.J. Graham, A.L. Webster, S.A. Primm, M.P. Bookbinder, and G. Ledec. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank)

Ecoregion	Conservation status	Biological distinctiveness	Biodiversity Conservation Priority	Threats	PRODRS region
Tehuantepec moist forests	Endangered	Bioregionally outstanding	High priority at regional scale	Expanding cattle ranching, road building	a) Las Tuxtlas-Sta. Marta b) La Chinantla c) La Huasteca
Balsas dry forests	Endangered	Regionally outstanding	Highest priority at regional scale	Agricultural expansion, intensive cultivation for export, associated pollution, exploitation of wildlife	d) La Montana
Mexican transvolcanic pine-oak forests	Endangered	Regionally outstanding	Highest priority at regional scale	Logging, agricultural expansion, firewood gathering, intensive wildlife exploitation	e) Meseta Purehpecha
Chihuahuan semidesert	Endangered	Regionally outstanding ³	Important at national scale	Collecting of Ixtle and Candelilla, Grazing, extraction of salt and gypsum, exploitation of water resources	f) Semidesierto

³ In accordance with the Ecological Regionalization of Priority Areas for Conservation in the Desert of Chihuahua. I.T.E.S.M., Monterrey. 1997.

CTC.- 03448

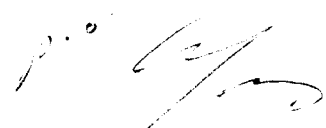
México, D.F. 21 de abril de 1998.

Señor Representante:

Hago referencia al proyecto MEX/97/001 "Apoyo en la preparación de proyectos para presentar al GEF" ejecutado por la Secretaría de Medio Ambiente, Recursos Naturales y Pesca (SEMARNAP), con apoyo del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD).

Al respecto, me es grato hacer llegar a usted para su consideración cuatro ejemplares, versiones inglés y español, de las propuestas: "*Conservación de la biodiversidad y desarrollo sustentable en seis regiones prioritarias en México*" y "*Consolidación y fortalecimiento del sistema de áreas naturales protegidas de México*", que, de no existir inconveniente, solicito atentamente a usted se presenten al GEF para su evaluación en el apartado de Biodiversidad. Cabe destacar que las mencionadas propuestas conforman dos de las cinco que están siendo diseñadas con recursos del PNUD dentro del proyecto de referencia. Asimismo, se anexan diskettes con la propuestas mencionadas.

Aprovecho la oportunidad para reiterar a usted las seguridades de mi atenta y distinguida consideración.



Emb. Alfredo Pérez Bravo,
Director General de Cooperación
Técnica y Científica

Sr. Bruno Guandalini,
Representante Residente del Programa
de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo
C i u d a d



SECRETARÍA
DE
HACIENDA Y CRÉDITO PÚBLICO

ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS
DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE CRÉDITO PÚBLICO
DIRECCIÓN DE ORGANISMOS FINANCIEROS
INTERNACIONALES
Subdirección de Proyectos Ambientales y de
Desarrollo Urbano

Oficio No. 393. III. 4.- 1 0 1

México, D.F., a **20 ABR. 1998**

LIC. JOSE LUIS SAMANIEGO LEYVA
Coordinador de la Unidad de Asuntos Internacionales
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente, Recursos Naturales y Pesca
Lateral del Periférico Sur 4209, piso 6,
Colonia Jardines en la Montaña
C i u d a d

Hago referencia a su comunicación No. **UCAI/1199/98**, de fecha 20 de abril de 1998, por medio de la cual remite a esta Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público, el segundo producto, Documento Solicitud Bloque "B", de las propuestas "**Conservación de la Biodiversidad y Desarrollo Sustentable en Seis Regiones Prioritarias de México**" y "**Consolidación y Fortalecimiento del Sistema de Áreas Naturales Protegidas de México**", resultado del proyecto financiado con recursos del PNUD "**Apoyo en la Preparación de Proyectos para presentar al GEF**".

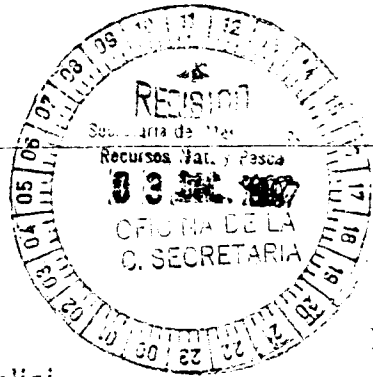
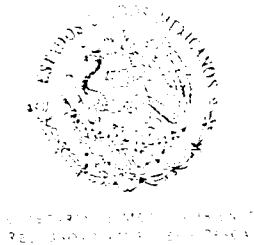
Sobre el particular, a través del presente me permito comunicar a Usted que esta Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público está de acuerdo en que dichas propuestas se sometan a consideración del Secretariado del GEF en Washington, a través del PNUD como Agencia Instrumentadora del GEF en México; lo anterior, en virtud de que su financiamiento contribuirá al cumplimiento de metas sectoriales de desarrollo.

Mucho le agradeceré nos mantenga informados de trámite que guarden estas gestiones, y sin otro particular por el momento, aprovecho la ocasión para reiterar a Usted las seguridades de mi más atenta y distinguida consideración.

A t e n t a m e n t e,
SUFRAGIO EFECTIVO. NO REELECCIÓN.
El Director de Organismos Financieros
Internacionales

P.A.

Ricardo Ochoa



Unidad Coordinadora de Asuntos Internacionales

UCAI 5326 97

México D.F., 1 de diciembre de 1997

Excmo. Sr. Bruno Guandalini
Representante Residente en México
Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo

Presente

Me permito hacer referencia a su atento oficio MEX/7/01/GEN, con fecha 24 de noviembre, en el cual solicita que se aclare sobre los dos proyectos "Consolidación y Fortalecimiento del Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas" y "Conservación de la Biodiversidad y Desarrollo Sustentable en Seis Regiones Prioritarias", que fueron presentados por la SEMARNAP para la consideración del GEF, en el área temática de biodiversidad.

Al respecto informo a usted que ambos proyectos revisten la misma importancia y el mismo nivel de prioridad, considerándose complementarios para atender la conservación de la biodiversidad en México. Mientras que el proyecto "Consolidación y Fortalecimiento del Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas" está enfocado en la conservación hacia adentro de las Áreas (ANPs), el proyecto "Conservación de la Biodiversidad y Desarrollo Sustentable en Seis Regiones Prioritarias" trabaja hacia afuera de las ANPs.

El proyecto "Consolidación y Fortalecimiento del Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas" está enfocado a trabajar en sitios donde el ambiente original no ha sido esencialmente alterado por el hombre. Su meta es la conservación hacia adentro, en zonas donde las actividades productivas están prohibidas (zonas núcleo) o reguladas (zonas de amortiguamiento). Las ANPs constituyen un instrumento toral en la conservación de la biodiversidad y de los bienes y servicios de la nación, y sus criterios de selección y priorización son: representatividad, endemicidad, extensión, relictualidad, marginidad, presión del hombre sobre los ecosistemas y la biodiversidad.

Este proyecto busca la creación de una estructura administrativa que fortalezca el Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas (SINAP) ya establecido, y que contribuya a la correcta orientación de las políticas, estrategias, prioridades programáticas y criterios de admisibilidad en beneficio de todas las ANPs a largo plazo.

Stamp: SECRETARIA DE RECURSOS NAT. Y PESCA, OFICINA DE LA C. SECRETARIA, DEC 3

Handwritten signature: N. Pineda, 3/12/97



*Unidad Coordinadora de
Asuntos Internacionales*

-2-

Por otro lado, el proyecto "Conservación de la Biodiversidad y Desarrollo Sustentable en Seis Regiones Prioritarias" se refiere a la consolidación de un proceso de carácter participativo entre los usuarios directos de los recursos naturales, que ya está implementando la Secretaría en diferentes regiones definidas como prioritarias por el gobierno de México. Este proyecto se enfoca en el trabajo hacia afuera de las áreas de reserva, en las zonas de influencia que rodean las regiones decretadas, y las cuales presentan un grado considerable de impacto humano.

Este proyecto contempla la aplicación de instrumentos que sirven como aljibe a la conservación de la biodiversidad en el marco de los programas de desarrollo regional sustentable, para revertir el impacto negativo del modelo de desarrollo sobre los recursos naturales a corto y mediano plazo; asimismo, mediante el fortalecimiento institucional de los ayuntamientos y organizaciones de productores y comunidades, se pretende atender procesos regionales y comunitarios, proponiendo y ejecutando programas de capacitación que frenen la presión de los sitios sujetos de conservación.

Por otra parte, hago de su conocimiento que el próximo lunes 8 de diciembre, el consultor del proyecto "Conservación de la Biodiversidad y Desarrollo Sustentable en Seis Regiones Prioritarias" presentará el documento de Solicitud Bloque B al Comité Ejecutivo.

Sin más por el momento, aprovecho la ocasión para enviarle un cordial saludo.

Atentamente

Luis Samaniego Leyva
Unidad de la Unidad

cc: Sr. Gerardo Lillo, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente, Recursos Naturales y Pesca.
Cofepris superior en el momento.
Sr. Javier de la Mesa - Jefe de la Unidad de Protección de Áreas Naturales
Protección INE. - Presente.
Sr. Carlos Toledo Manzan - Director General de Programas Regionales
SEMARNAP. - Presente.

Atentamente

20

1999/12/07 10:00

1999/12/07 10:00