

**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT BRIEF**

PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT IDENTIFIERS	
1. Project Name: <i>A Participatory Approach to Managing the Environment: An Input to the Inter-American Strategy for Participation (ISP)</i>	2. GEF Implementing Agency: UNEP
3. Countries of Implementation: Regional -Latin American and the Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela)	4. Countries Eligibility: The project involves 30 OAS Member States ratifiers to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
5. GEF Focal Area: Multi-focal (Biodiversity and International Waters)	6. GEF Operational Program/Short Term Measure: The project cuts across all 10 OPs which call for public participation through consultations, involvement of local stakeholders, and strategic partnerships between relevant stakeholders and specifically applied in demonstration sites: Dominica OP #2; Gulf of Honduras OP #9; and Peru OP #2.
7. Project linkage to national priorities, action plans and programs: The ISP is a direct response to the Plan of Action of the Bolivia Summit on Sustainable Development which states that: "In order to support the specific initiatives on public participation contained in the Plan of Action, entrust the OAS with assigning priority to the formulation of an Inter-American Strategy for the promotion of public participation in decision-making for sustainable development , taking into account the recommendations of the Inter-American Seminar on Public Participation held in Montevideo in 1996."	
8 GEF Operational Focal Points: (a) The preparation of the ISP and its elements has been endorsed by 34 represented Heads of States at the <i>Bolivia Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development- Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas</i> , December 7, 1996. (b) The ISP was endorsed by the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS) in the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development, April, 1997. (c) Endorsement from GEF-OFPs for the demonstration projects: Dominica - Sustainable Development Council - April 16, 1997; Peru - Consejo Nacional del Ambiente - April 11, 1997; Belize, Guatemala, Honduras - Belize -Ministry of Economic Development- April 28, 1997; Honduras -Secretaria de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente - April 20, 1997; Guatemala -Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente- May 8, 1997.	
PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES	
9. Project rationale and objectives: <u>goal</u> : To improve the performance and impacts of projects and programs in the GEF focal areas through the institutionalization and operationalization of public participation in national and regional actions. <u>objectives</u> : To enable countries of the region to have responsible and effective public participation in activities related to biodiversity and international waters, by demonstrating and applying concrete experiences in civil society participation.	Indicators: Endorsement of an Inter-American Strategy for Participation by the hemispheric community; incorporation of its elements in local, national and regional fora, programs, and organizations dealing with biodiversity and international waters.

<p>10. Project outcomes:</p> <p>(a) Demonstration of the replicability, effectiveness and impact of public participation on natural resource management, planning and environmental protection, related to biodiversity and international waters;</p> <p>(b) Documentation and dissemination of information and experiences on existing practices and legislation that promote or secure public participation in the design and implementation of policies, programs and projects in the GEF focal areas.</p> <p>© Strengthened regional cooperation and collaboration to enable collective learning on public participation best practices.</p> <p>(d) Increased participation in environmental planning and decision-making.</p> <p>(e) Removal of information, training, and legal barriers to effective public participation.</p> <p>(f) Inputs to the ISP.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>(a) Improved performance and sustainability of activities to address GEF focal areas through public participation.</p> <p>(b) Availability of practical tools and approaches for public participation to a broad range of stakeholders, in the design, implementation and evaluation of activities in the GEF focal areas.</p> <p>© Effective sharing of information among countries of the region; replication of best practices.</p> <p>(d) Number and impacts of activities on participatory environmental decision-making.</p> <p>(e) Increased commitments of governments and civil society in participatory approaches; enhanced ability to take into account and address social, cultural and economic needs of stakeholders.</p> <p>(f) Integration of project outcomes and lessons in the ISP.</p>																								
<p>11. Project activities:(GEF cost/Co-financing 000'US\$)</p> <p>(a) implement three demonstration projects in biodiversity and international waters (170/120);</p> <p>(b) comparative assessment of legal provisions and institutional participatory models (124/66);</p> <p>© information networking to disseminate lessons learned and exchange experiences (112/44);</p> <p>(d) technical assistance and training for building institutional capacity of governments and civil society groups to strengthen participation (122/102);</p> <p>(e) program for strengthening consultative participatory models at relevant regional, national and local fora (112/102);</p> <p>(f) participation in environmental policy decision making (80/146); and,</p> <p>(g) consultations for ISP formulation (0/260).</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>(a) models for public involvement tested and applied in three demonstration sites;</p> <p>(b) inventory published and provisions disseminated and discussed with governments and civil society;</p> <p>© delivery and outreach mechanisms established for information sharing on participation;</p> <p>(d) organizations trained and capable of responsible participation;</p> <p>(e) models tested of public-private partnerships</p> <p>(f) civil society involvement in environmental planning and decision-making and mechanism for long-term support; and,</p> <p>(g) proposal for ISP formulation.</p>																								
<p>12. Estimated budget (in US\$)</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Project Preparation:</td> <td>\$ 60,000</td> <td>(GEF/PDF-A \$25,000) (USAID \$10,000) (OAS \$16,000)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>(Countries and CSOs¹ \$9,000)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GEF:</td> <td>\$ 695,000</td> <td>(Total GEF \$720,000, including PDF-A grant)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Co-financing:</td> <td>\$ 150,000</td> <td>OAS (including \$100,000 in-kind)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$ 425,000</td> <td>Under discussion with: World Bank, IDB, USAID, CIDA, Ford Foundation and MacArthur Foundation</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$ 230,000</td> <td>(In-kind) - Countries and CSOs \$140,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>- Demonstration sites \$90,000 (Dominica \$20,000; Belize, Guatemala, Honduras \$40,000 (approx. \$13,000 ea.); Peru \$30,000)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>\$ 1,560,000</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Project Preparation:	\$ 60,000	(GEF/PDF-A \$25,000) (USAID \$10,000) (OAS \$16,000)			(Countries and CSOs ¹ \$9,000)	GEF:	\$ 695,000	(Total GEF \$720,000, including PDF-A grant)	Co-financing:	\$ 150,000	OAS (including \$100,000 in-kind)		\$ 425,000	Under discussion with: World Bank, IDB, USAID, CIDA, Ford Foundation and MacArthur Foundation		\$ 230,000	(In-kind) - Countries and CSOs \$140,000			- Demonstration sites \$90,000 (Dominica \$20,000; Belize, Guatemala, Honduras \$40,000 (approx. \$13,000 ea.); Peru \$30,000)	Total	\$ 1,560,000	
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<p>INFORMATION ON INSTITUTION SUBMITTING PROJECT BRIEF</p>																									
<p>13. Information on project proposer: General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS) -see attached description. (Annex 3)</p>																									

¹/ Civil Society Organizations.

14. Information on executing agency: GS/OAS co-executed with 34 governments and CSOs throughout the region; demonstration sites co-executing agencies: Dominica -Caribbean Enterprise Foundation, SCEPTRE, Ministry of Tourism and the National Development Corporation of Dominica; Gulf of Honduras -IDEADS in Guatemala, BELPO in Belize and CEMDAH in Honduras; and Peru -NATURA, Agenda 21 Commission, and Commission for the Technical Proposal for the Restoration of the Bay.

15. Date of initial submission of project concept: November 8, 1996.

INFORMATION TO BE COMPLETED BY IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

16. Project Identification number:

17. Implementing Agency contact person: Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, GEF Executive Coordinator

18. Project linkage to Implementing Agency program(s):

Links with GEC/FFLA: Two other projects under preparation have significant civil society participation components. The UNEP project, Global Environmental Citizenship (GEC), seeks to promote a culture of voluntary action, social and ethical obligations on environmental issues at the grassroots level issues in six sectors of civil society by raising public awareness on the GEF focal areas. UNDP-Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA) project "Integrating Global Environmental Dimensions into Public Policy Making in Latin America: A Multi-sectoral and Participatory Framework" focuses on building the awareness of public, private, and NGO- sector decision-makers and leaders, on the specific themes of the Convention on Climate Change and Convention on Biological Diversity and promoting dialog among decision makers. Overall, these projects share the common vision with the ISP regarding the importance of civil society involvement in environment and sustainable development policy and decision-making. This proposed medium-sized project seeks to operationalize public participation in national and regional actions, focusing on practical institutional approaches to fostering public participation in decision making. Representatives of the GEC and FFLA projects have participated in project preparation activities and it is expected that this close coordination will continue in the implementation phase, by having GEC and FFLA representatives on the Project Advisory Committee (PAC). In particular, each project provides distinct outputs that will be beneficial to the other projects.

The project will also benefit from UNEP's work in promoting and supporting regional and sub-regional frameworks for cooperation established by governments in the region, as well UNEP's support to governments in development and implementation of environmental legislation.

*A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT:
AN INPUT TO THE INTER-AMERICAN STRATEGY FOR PARTICIPATION (ISP)*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Rationale and Objectives

Governments of the Americas have committed themselves to meaningful citizen participation in environmental sustainable development in several global, hemispheric, and regional forums. The *Declaration of Rio* and *Agenda 21* of the 1992 *United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development*, the 1994 *Miami Summit of the Americas*, the Barbados Declaration from the 1994 *Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*, and the 1994 *Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development* call for increased involvement of the public in the making of policy on environment and sustainable development.

In December 1996 at the *Summit of the Americas for Sustainable Development*, held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, the Heads of State adopted a Declaration and Plan of Action that strongly supports the full integration of civil society into sustainable development policy design and implementation at the hemispheric and national level. The Declaration conveys that the signatories "will support and encourage, as a basic requisite for sustainable development, broad participation by civil society in the decision-making process, including policies and programs and their design, implementation, and evaluation." The Plan of Action for Sustainable Development states: "In order to support the specific initiatives on public participation contained in the Plan of Action, entrust the OAS with assigning priority to the formulation of an **Inter-American Strategy for the promotion of public participation in decision-making for sustainable development**, taking into account the recommendations of the Inter-American Seminar on Public Participation held in Montevideo in 1996. "

Likewise, the *GEF Operational Strategy* calls for increased public involvement through information dissemination, consultation, and stakeholder participation in GEF-financed projects. The ISP when fully endorsed and operational will provide a strong operational basis for strengthened public participation in GEF projects, by facilitating exchange of best practice and developing means to strengthen the role of NGOs and other stakeholders in project preparation, design, implementation and evaluation. As stated in the GEF policy paper, the rationale for effective public involvement in GEF-funded projects is that it improves the performance and impact of projects by enhancing recipient country ownership of, and accountability for, project outcomes.

The main objective of the project is to apply concrete experiences in civil society participation to biodiversity and international waters activities in three demonstration sites. At the same time, the project aims to enable countries of the region to have responsible and effective public participation in activities related to biodiversity and international waters, by demonstrating and applying concrete experiences in civil society participation.

Current Situation

In most countries of the hemisphere, civil society participation still needs to be fully integrated into environment and sustainable development decision-making processes, enabling citizens to participate responsibly in decisions regarding their country's and community's development path. Even where mechanisms do exist to facilitate and enable effective participation, many remain unaware of their scope or application, or lack the tools to take advantage of available processes. The failure to fully integrate stakeholder participation in environment and sustainable development policies, continually deprives governments of the unique contribution and perspective of civil society, and limits the full participation of citizens in determining their future.

There are various fundamental barriers that prevent the institutionalization of public participation in environment decision-making including: (a) a lack of confidence of government in civil society's ability to address their own needs, and their potential contribution to problem solving, particularly in addressing local issues; (b) generalized lack of information, adequate mechanisms, and institutionalized networking (within governments, the NGO community, community groups, and leaders) that provide access on tested and effective participatory experiences and processes in other communities, regions or countries; (c) lack of expertise in developing strategic partnerships among and between the public, private and NGO sectors; and (d) lack of awareness of existing legal and administrative recourse, and fora in which citizens can address environmental concerns within all levels of government, and in other institutions such as the Councils for Sustainable Development.

The formulation of the strategy was recommended by the *Inter-American Seminar on Public Participation in Sustainable Development*, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from August 28-30, 1996. At this forum, 120 representatives of various civic, environmental, indigenous communities, and business organizations, along with officials of 27 governments, recommended that the strategy focus on three main elements: enabling responsible participation, strengthening representative institutions and expanding avenues for participation in the management of natural resources.

Subsequently, on February 5-7, 1997 the GS/OAS convened an informal consultation of experts at the North-South Center of the University of Miami to begin laying the foundation for the ISP. A group of 25 experts from governments, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and international and bilateral organizations discussed the Santa Cruz mandate and the priorities and mechanisms required to formulate and implement the strategy.

The proposed project is a direct response to the commitment of western hemisphere Heads of State to formulate and implement the ISP. The project will operationalize specific elements of the political commitment and provide a practical foundation for shaping and refining the ISP. By financing activities that will provide on-the-ground experiences in the GEF focal areas as inputs to the ISP formulation, GEF will assure that the ISP goes beyond general commitments to become a practical program tested through demonstration sites and other regional activities.

Expected Project Outcomes

The project will emphasize the development and replication of concrete models for civil society engagement in the key areas of biodiversity and international waters using these areas as examples for transparent, effective and responsible public participation in broader environmental decision-making.

At the end of its 15-month period the following outcomes are expected:

- Demonstration of the replicability, effectiveness, and impacts of public participation on natural resource management, planning and environmental protection, related to biodiversity and international waters;
- Documentation and dissemination of information and experiences on existing practices and legislation that promote or secure public participation in the design and implementation of policies, programs and projects, especially those relevant to the GEF operational programs.
- Strengthened regional cooperation and collaboration to enable collective learning on public participation best practices in environmental management.
- Removal of information, training, and legal barriers to effective public participation, and enhanced opportunities for participation in environmental policy and decision-making.
- Inputs to the ISP.

Activities and Financial Inputs

In order to achieve project objectives, the following separate but complementary activities will be implemented (based on priorities identified by participants in the Montevideo Seminar in preparation for the Bolivia Summit and the consultation held in Miami on February 5-7, 1997). The lessons learned through the regional activities will feed into the demonstration sites, in order to reinforce the on-the-ground experience, and vice versa all the activities will create the basis for the successful formulation of the ISP. Total Cost (GEF/Co-financing)

- *Public Participation Demonstration Sites.* US\$ 290,000 (\$170,000/\$120,000) The activity will strengthen public involvement in shared decision-making in three sites that are currently being implemented in the areas of biodiversity and international waters. In addition this activity will examine existing and past projects with participatory strategies, to learn lessons from existing experiences, in order to draw valuable inputs for the demonstration sites. The three demonstration sites are: (1) Scotts Head Marine Reserve as a model for local management of a coastal ecosystem in Dominica; (2) a training and capacity building program on public participation for the management of shared coastal resources in the Gulf of Honduras (transboundary: Honduras, Belize and Guatemala); and, (3) a participatory environmental management model for the restoration of the Bahia de Ferrol in Chimbote, Peru; (see Annex 1 for description and criteria for selection.) *The activities are implemented through partnerships of governments and NGOs (Dominica and Peru) and a consortium of NGOs (Honduras, Belize and Guatemala.)*
- *Legal and Institutional Frameworks.* US\$ 190,000 (\$124,000/\$66,000) A comparative evaluation, through case studies and inventories of legal and institutional provisions, will be conducted to identify and recommend tools for securing participatory rights for environmental decision-making related to biodiversity and international waters. This component will open up lines of communication among government and civil society in terms of “mainstreaming” or legalizing participation; and it will provide lessons and experiences in governance at the national level. The emphasis will be on root causes affecting the GEF focal areas, particularly resource access/tenure, pricing, decentralization, and local governance issues. *Specialists from environmental NGOs will be contracted in close cooperation with local groups specialized in environmental law.*
- *Information Network.* US\$156,000 (\$112,000/\$44,000) A pilot regional network for disseminating information and experiences about effective public participation approaches in biodiversity and international waters project/programs, will be implemented. The activity will seek to secure rights to and availability of information and provide the means for government and civil society organizations, at the national and local level, to have access to such information network. The system will ensure that there is a feedback from the local and national levels to integrate real information needs, and that a link is established with existing public participation information networks, such as the International Association of Public Participation. A roster of related organizations (e.g. networks and NGOs dealing with women, youth and indigenous communities issues; labor, academic and private sector organizations promoting civic participation) will be kept up to date through the network. *The information network will be contracted to a regional NGO.*

- Technical Assistance and Training.* US\$ 224,000 (\$122,000/102,000) This activity will strengthen national and local capacity to include civil society concerns into national environment decision-making in the areas of biodiversity and international waters. It aims to build civil society's capacity to participate meaningfully in environmental management (e.g., through grassroots organizing techniques, negotiations, team building methodologies, etc.), and concurrently to build government's ability to absorb such civil society's participation (e.g., through participation methodologies, legislative/regulatory tools, etc.). The technical assistance and training program will be oriented toward specific institutions capable of responsibly channeling public input into environment policy dialog. This includes strengthening the national Councils for Sustainable Development (CSDs) as a means for effectively bringing together public-private organizations. A specific training program will be developed early in the implementation period of the project on subjects, such as, conflict resolution, consensus and team building methodologies, legislation, participatory evaluations, etc. *In the implementation of this activity the GS/OAS will contract NGOs, private consulting firms, individual consultants and even government offices that have the expertise in developing the training program and could disseminate successful experiences.*
- Consultative Fora.* US\$214,000 (\$112,000/\$102,000) Using the inputs from other activities, this component will test pilot models of consultative approaches to build public-private partnerships for policy-making; including mainstreaming of such approaches in the relevant bodies of the OAS. Besides the national and local CSDs, other kinds of partnership models, such as, round tables and public hearings, where the GEF focal areas could be discussed, will be tested for recommendations. *Consultation specialists from NGOs and the private sector will be contracted in the implementation of this activity.*
- Participation in Environment Policy and Decision Making.* US\$226,000 (\$80,000/\$146,000) Support will be granted for responsible civil society participation in key national and regional fora where environmental policies and decisions are made, especially in the areas of biodiversity conservation and international waters. Such support will enable government officials at the sub-national level, civil society groups or associations, and the private sector, to be actively engaged in the planning and consultations of issues related to natural resources management and policy. Mechanisms regarding selection, dissemination, and review are described in Annex 2, including preparatory work for setting up a fund to sustain longer-term support to eligible civil society groups. *This component will be implemented by a multi-sectoral committee consisting of representatives from OAS, the Project Advisory Committee (PAC), the GEF national focal points, NGOs, and other civil society groups.*
- ISP Framework.* US\$260,000 (\$0/\$260,000) The formulation of the ISP framework is within the mandate of OAS and is thus a baseline activity with no support from GEF. It has three elements designed to add value to and strengthen the OAS effort to formulate the Inter-American Strategy for Participation. First, the activity will assure that the ISP is formulated with full civil society participation and input; second, that the ISP is endorsed by the hemispheric community; and third, that the ISP incorporates the principles and learning achieved through on-the-ground project activities in community projects in the areas of biodiversity conservation and international waters. *This activity implies developing a proposal for the ISP framework, which will be done through individual consultants, and several instances of consultations and negotiations with governments and CSOs.*

Sustainability Analysis and Risk Assessment

The project has the highest level of support from governments as expressed in the Bolivia mandate to the OAS. Likewise, the civil society community has strongly supported the initiative through the Montevideo and Miami meetings. The formulation of the regional strategy is a step forward in the effort to materialize all political commitments. At the end of the project the ISP recommendations will be integrated into the political and institutional framework throughout the countries of the Americas.

An important component of the project that can assure long-term sustainability of its recommendations and guiding principles lies in its efforts to strengthen the Councils for Sustainable Development. These institutions have a lead role in sustainable development and environment policies at various levels of government, thus, once strengthened, will be in a unique position to take advantage of the tools and information that the ISP will facilitate. The lessons learned through the GEF funding will provide the real basis for assuring sustainability of the ISP recommendations, by providing demonstrated and concrete models and approaches to promoting public participation. The ISP framework in itself will identify financial sources and mechanisms to continue to develop from a 15-month strategy to a long-term regional program, especially with regard to the public participation fund and the information network.

The project does not expect to encounter significant risks in the implementation of its studies and on-the-ground activities, nevertheless, the starting time of the project could be critical since the development of the ISP framework requires the input from findings and learnings achieved through the specific on-the-ground project activities. The ISP framework is expected to be consulted, negotiated and finally presented to the Heads of State at the next hemispheric summit that will take place in Santiago, Chile in March 1998.

Stakeholder Involvement

The project aims to develop the means to ensure that, in planning for sustainable development, (a) all citizens--men, women, young people and children-- are involved in public policy decisions related to the management of the environment; (b) the role of indigenous communities in environmental management is strengthened; and © the interrelations among national and local governments, nongovernmental organizations (NGO's), trade unions and business associations, and the scientific community in planning for sustainable development are reinforced.

The project will be implemented with the direct involvement of key government and civil society stakeholders, allowing responsiveness to identified national needs and building capacity through participation in project development as well as through project activities. This inclusionary approach to implementation will also facilitate project follow-up and sustainability by engaging interested parties at each step of the way. These parties will be encouraged to develop their own appropriate national and regional programs that complement and continue the work of the project. To date, the project has exercised an open and participatory approach through the Montevideo seminar, the Miami consultation, a request for submission of project proposals for the demonstration projects, and ISP information posted on the OAS site on the Internet.

Incremental Cost Assessment

Governments have made a political commitment at the regional level to ensure public participation and have mandated the formulation of an Inter-American Strategy for Participation. However there is no definite course of action or mechanisms to guide the formulation of the Strategy or

the implementation of their commitments at a national level. In addition, some government and NGO activities are currently undertaken throughout the hemisphere but there is an overall lack of awareness within the public and private sector, and civil society of the benefits of effective participation, or access to information on existing legal and institutional mechanisms.

GEF financing is being sought to add knowledge and experience on the GEF focal areas to hemispheric activities in public participation in environment and sustainable development actions. The baseline would have involved more generic environmental issues; the GEF grant helps specifically to incorporate biodiversity and international waters issues into public participation institutions and processes. In addition, the GEF grant will co-finance demonstrations, training, capacity building and networking to complement baseline studies, analyses, and strategy-preparation.

The baseline is estimated at US\$840,000. The cost of the alternative to achieve global environmental benefits is US\$1.56 million and the incremental cost requested from GEF is US\$720,000 (includes a PDF-A grant of US\$25,000). The non-GEF cash contribution estimated at US\$501,000, will be used mainly to support the costs of the ISP Framework, including the consultation process (US\$260 K); the proposal for the establishment of regular consultative fora within the relevant bodies of the OAS (US\$23 K); as well as, a contribution to the technical components of the project (US\$218K). In addition it is estimated that US\$339,000 in-kind contribution reflects the cost of all project counterparts throughout the Hemisphere and the staff time and other in-kind costs to the GS/OAS for the management of the project.

The baseline for the demonstration site of Scotts Head in Dominica is for the support of community management of competing uses of coastal resources (\$20,000); the incremental funding from the GEF will strengthen the project's ability and resources to make this experience of participatory management of natural resources widely known and replicable (\$50,000). The Gulf of Honduras model baseline is devised to bring together data and experiences from different legal frameworks in protected areas' management to benefit the local area (\$40,000); the GEF incremental funding will strengthen the application of these legal frameworks and support the development of user-friendly manuals -describing rights, obligations, and functions of community and authorities, for the preparation and execution of protected areas management plans by key stakeholders and decision-makers (\$60,000). The demonstration site of Peru has a baseline cost devised to create an environmental restoration proposal and to institutionalize an environmental management/action plan for Chimbote (\$30,000); the incremental funding from the GEF will support this effort by creating an open dialogue and participatory negotiation processes among key stakeholders -industry, government, specialized committees, and local communities (\$60,000).

The table below summarizes the baseline and incremental cost assessment by project activity.

Project Activity	Total Cost US\$	Baseline Cost	Benefits		Incremental Cost (GEF)
			Baseline	Alternative	
<i>Public Participation Demonstration Sites</i>	290,000	120,000	On-going activities on coastal and marine natural resources management	Focus activities on strengthening participatory approaches and replicability for biodiversity and international waters protection	170,000
<i>Legal and Institutional Frameworks</i>	190,000	66,000	Local research of legal and institutional frameworks	Hemispheric-wide comparative analysis and identification of legal frameworks and best practices for mainstreaming public participation	124,000
<i>Information Network</i>	156,000	44,000	Identification of basic sources of information at the countries' level	Creation of a regional network for exchanging information and experiences and securing rights and access to information	112,000
<i>Technical Assistance and Training</i>	224,000	102,000	A broader technical assistance program for governments and civil society to participate in environmental management	Strengthen national and local capacity to participate meaningfully and responsibly in environmental management in the areas of biodiversity and international waters, as well as cross-country cooperation	122,000
<i>Consultative Fora</i>	214,000	102,000	Identify and analyze models for local and national private-public partnerships for policy-making	Test and recommend best models for government-civil society consultative approaches for managing biodiversity and international waters activities	112,000

Project Activity	Total Cost US\$	Baseline Cost	Benefits		Incremental Cost (GEF)
			Baseline	Alternative	
<i>Participation in Environment Policy and Decision Making</i>	226,000	146,000	Review options and develop models for civil-society participation in regional and national fora for environmentally policy-making	Successfully engage civil society groups and private sector the planning and consultations of biodiversity conservation and international waters	80,000
<i>ISP Framework</i>	260,000	260,000	Developing a framework agreement for the ISP to ensure governments support and commitment to integrate public participation in sustainable development decision-making		0
Total	1,560,000	840,000			720,000

Budget

Component	Total Cost US\$	GEF	Co-Financing		
			OAS	Others	In-kind
Project Preparation ²	60,000	25,000	16,000	10,000	9,000
Personnel/consultants	710,000	235,000	35,000	160,000	³ 280,000
Subcontracts	180,000	150,000		30,000	
Training/meetings	340,000	150,000		160,000	30,000
Equipment	50,000	30,000		20,000	
Travel	121,000	80,000	11,000	30,000	
Evaluation mission(s)	20,000	20,000			
Miscellaneous	79,000	30,000	4,000	25,000	20,000
Project Total (PDF+project costs)	1,560,000	720,000	66,000	435,000	339,000

Project Implementation Plan

The implementing agency for the project is UNEP, which will be responsible for overall project supervision to ensure consistency with GEF and UNEP policies and procedures, and will provide guidance on linkages with related UNEP and GEF-funded activities. The executing agency is the Unit of Sustainable Development and Environment (USDE) of the General Secretariat of the Organization of

^{2/} (\$25,000 GEF PDF Block-A Grant) (\$10,000 USAID)

^{3/} Includes US\$100,000 OAS in-kind contribution.

American States (GS/OAS), which will be responsible for the overall management of the project. For the implementation of the activities the GS/OAS will work through co-executing agencies, such as, specialized NGOs; specific national and local government; regional and national consulting firms and individual consultants. A Technical Group (TG) will be organized with three or four persons on GS/OAS staff and/or consulting with the GS/OAS to coordinate day-to-day logistics, and a larger Project Advisory Committee (PAC) will be organized and composed of representatives from governments (from among National Focal Points designated by the governments for ISP coordination), CSOs, UNEP, GS/OAS, and other donor institutions. Within the OAS, political oversight will be provided by the Inter-American Commission on Sustainable Development of the OAS (CIDS).

Project Implementation Plan

Duration of Project - 15 months					
Activities	Project-Months				
Completion of Project Activities	3	6	9	12	15
1. Public participation demonstration sites (15 months)	_____				
2. Legal and institutional frameworks (15 months)	_____				
3. Information network (14 months)	_____				
4. Technical Assistance and Training (13 months)	_____				
5. Consultative fora (15 months)	_____				
6. Partic. in Envir. Policy and Decision Making (15 months)	_____				
7. ISP framework (6 months)	_____				

Public Involvement Plan

- *Stakeholder Identification*

Apart from the GS/OAS, UNEP, GEF and other co-financing donors, key stakeholders are: a) local and national governments throughout the hemisphere with a stake in the outcome of ISP; b) civil society organizations and NGOs, including women and youth groups, indigenous communities, private sector groups, political parties, labor and academic organizations; c) local communities who will benefit or could be potentially affected by the project activities; and d) all persons interested in the outcome of project activities that are co-executing agents or that are involved throughout project implementation.

- *Information dissemination and consultation*

The Project Advisory Committee (PAC), will hold two or three meetings during the course of the project, in order to advise the GS/OAS in setting priorities and reviewing key decisions. Specific activities will be consulted with larger groups. The information posted on the OAS web site will be expanded and a roster of related organizations will be kept up to date through the information network.

The PAC, activity executing agents⁴, ISP National Focal Points, and the ISP information network will ensure regular dissemination of project experiences to the abovementioned stakeholders interested in following project progress. Furthermore, extensive notification and consultation at the local level will be conducted by the activity executing agencies, and collaborators.

^{4/} Project executing agents are the “team” of sub-contractors and/or consultants carrying out each activity proposed under each ISP project component (such as the team working on the country by country legal inventories, etc).

- *Social and participation issues*

The overall ISP project goal is aimed at strengthening the role of civil society at the regional and local level, and promoting active and effective participation in a sector that has been traditionally dormant in environment and sustainable development issues in the hemisphere. Each relevant project component addresses the particular social and participation issues of the targeted population, and will jointly develop strategies to ensure participation of affected communities throughout the project cycle to enable sustainability. Anticipated social issues include gender concerns, access to resources as defined by property and tenure rights, and impacts of national sectoral laws on the management of resources, specifically in the areas of biodiversity and international waters.

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (M&E)

Monitoring of the project will be undertaken by the GS/OAS in collaboration with UNEP. Data indicating project success will be compiled by the executing agents of each project activity and will be reported to GS/OAS which in turn will verify execution performance, implement changes or adjustments to the project, if necessary.

Progress reports will be submitted to the PAC periodically. A mid-term review is scheduled for April 1998 and an end-of-project evaluation will also be prepared by the GS/OAS in September/October 1998. A total of US\$20,000 has been allocated to project evaluation missions.

List of Annexes

- Annex 1. Description of Public Participation Demonstration Models
- Annex 2. Participation in Environment Policy and Decision Making: Mechanisms for Implementation
- Annex 3. Information Brief on the Executing Agency
- Annex 4. Letters of Endorsement from GEF Operational Focal Points
Peru: Gonzalo Galdos, President, Consejo Nacional del Ambiente
Dominica: Sheridan G. Gregoire, Chairman, Sustainable Development Council, National Development Corporation of Dominica
Belize: Harold Arzu, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Economic Development
Honduras: Sergio A. Zelay, Sub-Secretario del Ambiente, Secretaria de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente
Guatemala: Juan Francisco Asturias F., Coordinador Nacional, Comision Nacional del Ambiente
- Annex 5. Declarations
Summit of the Americas for Sustainable Development, Bolivia
Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development
(CIDI/CIDS/Doc.4/97Rev.4Com) approved by CIDI/Res/11(II-0/97)
- Annex 6. List of Documents
Montevideo Seminar on Public Participation
Miami Consultation of Experts
- Annex 7. List of Participants
Montevideo Seminar on Public Participation
Miami Consultation of Experts
- Annex 8. Additional Letters of Support
Central American Commission for Environment and Development
Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano
Coordinator Summit of the Americas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jamaica
Permanent Mission of Uruguay,
North-South Center, University of Miami
Caribbean Environment and Development Institute, Puerto Rico
Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Argentina
Presidency of the Dominican Republic

Annex 1
Description of Public Participation Demonstration Sites

Names and Countries	Scotts Head Marine Reserve as a Model for Local Management of a Coastal Ecosystem Dominica	"Proyecto Piloto de Capacitación en Participación Pública en Zonas Marino-Costas del Golfo de Honduras" Honduras, Belize and Guatemala	"Gestión Ambiental Participativa para la Recuperación de la Bahía de Ferrol en Chimbote, Peru" Peru
Primary Executing Agency	Caribbean Enterprise Foundation (CEF) Contact: Michael Anyadike-Danes	Instituto de Derecho Ambiental y Desarrollo Sostenible (IDEADS), Guatemala Contact: Edmundo Vásquez	NATURA, Chimbote, Peru Contact: Maria Elena Foronda
Executing Arrangement Type	Government-NGO Partnership	Consortium of NGOs	Government-NGO Partnership
Collaborating Institutions	Springfield Center for Environmental Protection, Research and Education (SCEPTRE); and, National Development Corporation (NDC)	BELPO, Belize and CEMDAH, Honduras	Comisión Nacional del Ambiente, Peru; Agenda 21 Commission; and, Commission for the Restoration of the Bay
Civil Society Involved/ Affected Population	Technical assistance from Cooperation Franchise, Dominica's Fisheries Department, a Local Management Authority, local community, fishermen, and the dive tour operators and government department. Affected population: Scotts Head coastal residents, local fishermen and diver tour operators.	Interest and pressure groups concerned with the international coasts and protected areas, 3 countries, 3 Departments, 5 municipalities, 6 NGOs, and 9 local communities. Affected population are stakeholders of 9 communities surrounding the coasts and protected areas in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras.	Inhabitants of Ferrol Bay area, 200 public and private institutions, Universities, neighborhood groups, "Vaso de Leche Committee", fisheries, iron and steel industries, and unions. Affected population are the 278,271 inhabitants of Ferrol Bay.

<p>GEF Operational Program</p>	<p>Biodiversity conservation and coastal ecosystem management; (O.P. # 2) The project aims to preserve the biodiversity and its components within the marine and coastal ecosystem of the southern coast of Dominica, particularly coral reef, the fish stocks, mangroves, marshes and coastal waters in general. The ecosystem is threatened by competing uses of local fishermen, dive tour operators, and village community of Scotts Head and outside visitors practicing un-regulated diving activities, destructive fishing methods, and recreation uses.</p>	<p>International waters: integrated land and water multiple focal area in a tri-national coastal ecosystem (O.P. # 9) The project strives to preserve biodiversity of the humid tropical forests within the protected areas and buffer zones in and around the Honduras Gulf (Honduras, Guatemala and Belize), threatened by the deforestation, logging, lack of community awareness of importance of the protected areas, effective legal frameworks, management plans, and enforcement capability of local authorities.</p>	<p>Biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration in a coastal fishing area (O.P. # 2) The project tries to restore the dry tropical coastal and marine ecosystem of Puerto Chimbote, one of Peru's most degraded areas, highly polluted by effluents of two of the most important industries for the national economy. Also threatens the health of local communities (source of cholera epidemic en 1990-91) and local economy of fishing communities due to the migration and mortality of hydrobiological species.</p>
<p>Expected Outputs of GEF-funded demonstration project</p>	<p>Phase I: Training materials (print/video/audio) based upon Scotts Head experience with interviews to fishermen, tour operators, etc., and to assist in developing similar civil society process-based approaches in other sites where resident and tourist uses of the natural environment may be in conflict Phase II: To conduct workshops at another location in Dominica where similar issues arise to evaluate and improve the materials worth as a stimulus to a participatory approach to environmental management.</p>	<p>Phase I: Manuals for Capacity Building targeted at different stakeholders: "El Buen Alcalde, El Buen Vecino, La Organización Social/Participación Pública;" Phase II: Conduct 12 capacity building workshops on the topics addressed by the Manuals; and Phase III: Conduct consultations with interested and pressure groups (preferably those who participated in Phase II), to negotiate issues of conflict and other controversial topics concerning the regulation, institutions and policies related to the protected areas.</p>	<p>Formation of a Management Nucleus, and working committees; Documentation of successful experiences in bay, alternative actions identified and disseminated through mass media and consultations with working groups including public, private sectors and the inhabitants of Ferrol Bay; Preliminary local Action Plan.</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>9 months</p>	<p>10 months</p>	<p>8 months</p>

<p>Incremental Cost Assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project is part of Dominica's strategy to harness tourism to improve and maintain natural assets. - On-going activities include community management of competing uses of a natural resources; the preservation of coral reef for nature tourism and maintaining fish stock for fishermen with civil society involvement, while promoting institutional-building for the Local Area Management Authority. - The baseline funded by the executing agency, the Government of Dominica and collaborating institutions is for the support of community management of competing uses of coastal resources (\$20,000). - The GEF-funded activity objective is to develop training materials to promote the participation of civil society in the management of environmental resources. - Through the incremental funding the GEF will strengthen the project's ability and resources to make the experience of participatory management of natural resources widely known and replicable (\$50,000). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project follows the objectives and under the auspices of the "Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo (CCAD)." and the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development. - Project activities include building awareness of local authorities of their obligations and functions; civil society of their rights, obligations, and participation mechanisms; and civil society organizations of how to organize themselves and how to participate effectively. - The executing agency and the consortium of NGOs baseline funding is devised to gather data and information from different legal frameworks in protected areas' management applicable to the local area (\$40,000) - The GEF funding aims to promote authentic civil society participation in discussing regulatory, institutional and political issues concerning the coastal international waters and protected areas that may be reflected in the final Management Plans. - The GEF incremental funding will strengthen the application of these legal frameworks and support the development of user-friendly manuals for the preparation and execution of protected areas management plans by key stakeholders and decision-makers (\$60,000). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project is part of the National Environmental Dialogue promoted by the National Environment Commission (CONAM). - It aims to address the pollution of the bay by industrial effluent from steel, iron and fisheries industry by involving civil society (representatives and inhabitants in full) into process to seek solution, and by relating local NGOs to national policy-makers on the Ferrol Bay. - NATURA as executing agency together with the Government of Peru and the collaborating institutions will contribute with a baseline cost devised to create an environmental restoration proposal and to institutionalize an environmental management/action plan for Chimbote (\$30,000). - The objective of the GEF funded activities is to promote a process for civil society participation in seeking solutions and alternatives for the restoration of the Ferrol Bay. - The incremental funding from the GEF will support this effort by creating an open dialogue and participatory negotiation processes among key stakeholders -industry, government, specialized committees, and local communities (\$60,000)
<p>Total Cost (GEF/Co-Financing)</p>	<p>\$70,000 (\$50,000/\$20,000)</p>	<p>\$100,000 (\$60,000/\$40,000)</p>	<p>\$90,000 (\$60,000/\$30,000)</p>

Note: The demonstration activity component was subject to extensive notification that requested the nomination of projects to every OAS Member State's Permanent Mission, the members of the ISP coordination group that met in the Miami consultation of experts, and through the OAS Internet web site. The criteria for project selection on: sub-regional representation, the degree of public involvement in the design and implementation of projects in the region on biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation or international waters; project outcomes should demonstrate a direct causal connection between increased participation and increased sustainability, project located in GEF eligible countries; address one or more GEF Operational Focal Areas, among others.

Annex 2
**Participation in Environment Policy and Decision Making:
Mechanisms for Implementation**

Purpose:

The purpose of establishing a separate program for civil society participation in national environmental policy and decision making is to provide sufficient opportunity and resources for such groups to promote participatory approaches in environmental management and to encourage greater involvement of non-governmental groups in key environmental fora at the national, and whenever possible, at the regional levels.

Criteria:

Financial and technical support will be given to organizations whose activities focus on participatory planning and consultations in natural resources management, environmental policy, and legislative planning, initially in relation to biodiversity conservation and international waters. Support will be granted to organizations conducting activities that have an impact on local environments and community environmental policies and are committed to integrate participatory approaches in managing biodiversity resources and transboundary water uses.

- *Recipients:* local community groups (e.g., women's associations, indigenous communities, youth); grassroots environment organizations; government officials at the sub-national level undertaking public hearings, consultations or meetings; civil society groups (including local schools, consumer organizations, academic institutions), and private sector representatives (e.g., small business, cooperatives);
- *Eligibility:* recipients whose organizations are currently engaging in participatory planning, consultations, and dissemination of activities related to natural resources management, in particular, biodiversity conservation and international waters;

Mechanisms for Implementation:

The Information Network will be the main source of information for potential recipients of support in this program. Dissemination of relevant information will be done through the Internet and other means of effective communication for reaching broad-based groups. The OAS Technical Group (TG), the Project Advisory Committee (PAC), the GEF national focal points and others identified in the OAS roster of organizations will be involved in the program. Decisions on support will be made jointly by the OAS TG and the PAC in accordance with the above criteria.

Preparatory work to establish a longer-term mechanism, such as an environment participation fund, for supporting the program's activities beyond the project's life will be done, incorporating lessons learned in this initial phase. This includes conduct of feasibility of establishing a fund and mobilizing from various sources. Work will be undertaken by a specialist. Recommendations will be evaluated by the OAS TG and the PAC.

Annex 3
Information Brief on the Executing Agency

1. **Applicant:** The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS)
2. **Background:** The Organization of American States (OAS) is the world's oldest regional organization, dating back to the First International Conference of American States, held in Washington, D.C., from October 1889 to April 1890. The establishment of the International Union of American Republics was approved at that meeting on April 14, 1890. The OAS Charter was signed in Bogotá in 1948 and entered into force in December 1951. Subsequently, the Charter was amended by the Protocol of Buenos Aires, signed in 1967, which entered into force in February 1970; by the Protocol of Cartagena de Indias, signed in 1985, which entered into force in November 1988; and by the Protocol of Managua, signed in 1993, which entered into force in January 1996. In 1992, the Protocol of Washington was signed; it will enter into force upon ratification by two thirds of the member states. The OAS currently has 35 member states. In addition, the Organization has granted Permanent Observer status to 39 states and to the European Union.

The basic purposes of the OAS are as follows: to strengthen the peace and security of the continent; to promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention; to prevent possible causes of difficulties and to ensure the pacific settlement of disputes that may arise among the member states; to provide for common action on the part of those states in the event of aggression; to seek the solution of political, juridical and economic problems that may arise among them; to promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social and cultural development, and to achieve an effective limitation of conventional weapons that will make it possible to devote the largest amount of resources to the economic and social development of the member states.

3. **Organizational Structure:** The OAS accomplishes its purposes through the following organs: the General Assembly; the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs; the Councils (the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development); the Inter-American Juridical Committee; the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; the General Secretariat; the Specialized Conferences; the Specialized Organizations; and other entities established by the General Assembly. The General Secretariat is the central and permanent organ of the OAS. The headquarters of both the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat is in Washington, D.C.

4. **Leadership:** Mr. César Gaviria, Secretary General

5. **Membership:** Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas (Commonwealth of), Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica (Commonwealth of), Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

6. **Recent Programs/Projects/Activities:** The GS/OAS, through the Unit of Sustainable Development and Environment (USDE), is acting as executing agency for two GEF-financed projects: (1) Caribbean: Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change (World Bank), \$6.3 million; and (2) Bolivia/Argentina: Strategic Action Program for the Binational Basin of the Bermejo River (UNEP), \$2.99 million.

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