



**Colombia: Biodiversity Conservation in the Paramo and Montane Forest
Ecosystems of the Colombian Massif (UNDP)**

Operational Program: 4,3 (Biodiversity)
GEF Secretariat Review: Concept Clearance

Financing (millions): \$0.00 *Total (millions):* \$0.00 1194

Summary

The project would assist the Government of Colombia in conserving and sustainably managing globally outstanding biodiversity in the high mountain regions of the Colombian Massif

Expected Project Outputs:

Project Duration (months): 0

Basic Project Data

Project GEF ID:

<i>Staff</i>		<i>Processing Status</i>	<i>Date</i>
Program Manager	Ramos	Processing Stage	
Implementing Agency	UNDP	Concept Pipeline Discussion	1/18/00
Regional Coordinator	H. Paparoni	PDF A - Agency Approval	
Executing Agency		PDF B - CEO Approval	
		Bilateral Project Review Meeting	
		Work Program Submission and Approv	
		CEO Endorsement	
		Agency Approval	
		Project Completion	

Cost Summary

Cost Item	Years	Amount (USD'000)
<u>Preparation</u>		
- PDF A		\$0.03
- PDF B		
- PDF C		
<u>Project Allocation</u>		
- Executing Agency Fees and Costs		\$0.00
- Project Management Costs		\$0.00
- Other Incremental Costs		\$0.00

Completeness of Documentation

Focal Point..... Budget..... Logical Framework.....
 STAP Review..... Increment Cost..... Length.....
 Disclosure of Administration Cost..... Complete Cover Sheet....

1. Country Ownership

Country Eligibility

The Country ratified the CBD as recorded in the proposal. It is eligible for support.

Evidence of Country Ownership/Country-Drivenness

a clear strategic framework in place through the National Strategy for the Conservation of the Andes; co-financing for baseline issues.

2. Program and Policy Conformity

Portfolio Balance

The project concept is an important addition to OP#4 and will address key biodiversity conservation and buffer zone management issues. It supports the national strategy for the conservation of the Andes and its is one of four complementary initiatives to be presented to the GEF for consideration. These include an umbrella project (Biodiversity Conservation in the Andes, under WB preparation), and three sub-regional, site specific projects: the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (WB) included in the December 99 WP, the Sierra de la Macarena proposal (UNDP) under formulation using PDF B resources; and this proposal.

Program Conformity

The proposed concept conforms well with OP #s 4 and 3.

Replicability

Good potential for replicability in the Andean region. If illegal crop substitution is successful, it could be a good methodological example not only for the LAC region but other parts of the world as well.

Potential Global Environmental Benefits of Project

The region is globally important and mentioned in major regional priority setting works/studies. The two major eco-regions included are of global priority.

Sustainability

Not clearly defined at this stage.

Baseline Course of Action

Briefly defined. An action plan for environmental land-zoning of the massif is under development seeking institutional coordination and action. This plan does not fully address deficiencies in the protected area (PA) system nor does it adequately incorporate biodiversity management principles in the region's sectoral development planning. This should be done for long-term effectiveness of proposed biodiversity conservation/sustainable use activities to be financed by GEF.

Alternative Action Supported by project

Briefly describe too. Although the alternative will address well in-situ conservation, key issues related to underlying causes, sectoral integration, land use planning would have to be well supported through the proposed baseline. Key issues raised by Council in the December 99 meeting regarding the Colombia's Santa Marta project is the issue of security and illegal crop cultivation. Assurances will be needed from UNDP that the project can be implemented given these constraints.

Conformity with GEF Public Involvement Policy

At this stage of project preparation, the descriptions of public involvement, including consultations and

coordinating meetings, show that the preparation is proceeding well at all levels. At the national level, there are indications of cooperation with other government agencies and with the regional and district environmental agencies (e.g., the Southern Andean Regional Unit). The consultations at the local level are most significant since the area contains a large tract of indigenous protected sites (and buffers) occupied by seven tribal groups -- the Paeces, Yanaconas, Guambianos, Coconucos, Totoroes, Ingas, and Kamentzas (para. 13, p. 4). As such, they are considered to be cultural heritage sites, but their status needs to be verified with the World Heritage Sites Committee. In this regard, it is recommended that preparation take into serious consideration further activities related to development of indigenous communities, and to ensure their representation (as noted in para. 11, p. 3) and voice.

Private Sector Involvement

None indicated yet.

3. Appropriateness of GEF Financing

Incremental Cost

Indicative information only. Resulting project size likely to be in the range of \$8 m, with a GEF contribution of \$5 m. The proposed co-financing of \$3 m seems unlikely to be enough to address key baseline issues. UNDP should further explore necessary co-financing. The region is one of the most populous region of the country, under severe stress from extensive development processes, which make it likely to require more co-financing.

Appropriateness of Financial Modality Proposed

Grant resources requested.

Financial Sustainability of the GEF-Funded Activity

Not addressed yet.

Absorptive Capability

This is an issue both UNDP and the Government of Ccolombia will need to seriously consider, There are a number of projects in the portfolio and pipeline which will require extensive capacity for implementation. In addition, parts of the country are not under control of the government, which could preclude project implementation.

Cost Effectiveness

4. Coordination with Other Institutions

Collaboration

The darft documents well the extensive consultation conducted with the World Bank and the Government of Colombia.

Complementarity with Ongoing Activities

This concept complements well on-going and planned activities.

5. Responsiveness to Comments and Evaluations

Core Commitments

None indicated yet.

Linkages

(e)

Consultation and Coordination

The draft documents well the extensive consultation conducted with the World Bank and the Government of Colombia.

Consistency w/previous upstream consultations, project preparation work, and processing conditions

This is the first time the concept is reviewed by the Secretariat.

Monitoring & evaluation: Minumum GEF Standards, ME plan, proposed indicators, lessons from PIRs and Project Lessons Study

None yet.

Indicators

None yet.

Implementing Agencies' Comments

None yet.

STAP Review

None yet.

Council members' Comments

Key issues raised by Council in the December 99 meeting regarding the Colombia, Santa Marta's project is the issue of security and illegal crop cultivation. Assurances will be needed from UNDP that the project can be implemented given these constraints.

Technical Assurances

Key issues raised by Council in the December 99 meeting regarding the Colombia's Santa Marta project is the issue of security and illegal crop cultivation. Assurances will be needed from UNDP that the project can be implemented given these constraints.

Convention Secretariat

None yet.

Other Technical Comments

Further Processing

The PM is supportive of approved the project concept and its inclusion in the pipeline. In developing the concept further, the following issues are recommended for further consideration:

(a) key issues related to underlying causes, sectoral integration, land use planning would have to be well supported through the proposed baseline;

(b) Continued coordination with the World Bank and other agencies working in the region should be pursued;

(c) Key issues raised by Council regarding the Colombia's Santa Marta project on security and illegal crop cultivation should be taken into account. Assurances will be needed from UNDP that the project can be implemented given these constraints. A biref meeting with Bankstaff working in Colombia may be needed, to coordinate a response to these issues;

(d) clarify the status of the World Heritage site nomination.

(e) Address social issues highlighted in the public involvement sections.

A bilateral meeting with UNDP staff took place on January 18, 2000. The meeting agreed with the above recommendations.