



LAC-IEE-05-23

ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION

Activity Location:	LAC Regional
Activity Title:	Improve Conservation of the Region's Biological Resources
Activity Number:	SO22
Funding:	\$80.866 million
Life-of-Activity:	FY2001 – FY 2010
IEE prepared by:	Christy Johnson, LAC/RSD/E
Recommended Threshold Decision:	Categorical Exclusion, Deferral
Bureau Threshold Decision:	Concur with Recommendation
Comments:	

Pursuant to the following sections of 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2),

(i) Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.);

(iii) Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings;

(xiv) Studies, projects or programs intended to develop the capability of recipient countries to engage in development planning, except to the extent designed to result in activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.);

A **Categorical Exclusion** is issued for activities in the Amazon Basin Conservation Initiative that fall into the above categories

A **Deferral** is issued for all activities under the ABCI that are not categorically excluded from additional environmental review. When the activities are better defined – at the time of approval of the procurement – a supplemental IEE should be submitted for these activities. The procurement mechanism(s) should specifically mention incorporation of environmental review and compliance with 22 CFR 216 in ABCI activity design.

_____ Date _____
Victor H. Bullen
Bureau Environmental Officer
Bureau for Latin America & the Caribbean

Copy to: Richard Loudis, LAC/RSD

Copy to: Jerry Bisson, LAC/RSD/E

Copy to: Connie Campbell, LAC/RSD/E

Copy to; Bruce Bayle, Regional Environmental
Advisor, USAID/Colombia

Copy to: Sarah-Ann Lynch, LAC/SA

Copy to: IEE File

Attachment: IEE

File: P:\LAC.RSD.PUB\RSDPUB\EES\Reg 216\IEE\IEE05\IEE05-23.CE(REG – AmazonBCI).doc

SUPPLEMENTAL INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION

Activity Location	LAC Region
Activity Title	Improve Conservation of the Region's Biological Resources
Activity Number	SO 22
Life of Project Funding	\$80.866 million
Life of Project	FY 2001 – FY 2010
IEE Prepared by	Christy Johnson, LAC/RSD/E
Recommended Threshold Decision	Categorical Exclusion/ Deferral

Comments:

This is a supplemental Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) for the Office of Regional Sustainable Development's Biodiversity Conservation Strategic Objective. The original IEE, LAC-IEE-01-32, determined a Categorical Exclusion and Negative Determinations and a Supplemental IEE, LAC-IEE-04-29, determined a Categorical Exclusion and Negative Determination with conditions. The LAC Bureau is amending the Strategic Objective to increase the Ceiling and extend the Objective's timeline through FY 2010 in order to accommodate the new Amazon Basin Conservation Initiative (ABCI).

In addition to the ABCI, this SO supports the Parks in Peril 2000 Program (PiP 2000) as well as regional conservation initiatives such as workshops and analyses conducted by NGOs, academic institutions, and other organizations. The *Parks in Peril 2000* Program, to date the main activity under this Strategic Objective, is a Cooperative Agreement signed in September 2001 between the USAID's Latin America and Caribbean Bureau (LAC) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). This SO also includes field-based and Washington program staff that contribute to the SO, as well as program support such as travel and environmental compliance training and guidelines. The LAC/RSD/E office manages this SO with substantial input from the LAC bilateral and regional Missions. Prior to implementation of specific activities, work plans for activities in a given country are jointly reviewed and approved by USAID Mission and Washington staff.

The SO objectives are to:

- Strengthen conservation systems such as national protected area systems, private and indigenous reserves;

- Organize efforts to address some of the most critical conservation initiatives in the region;
- Strengthen and expand the conservation network to include broader partnerships such as universities, NGOs specializing in areas other than conservation, and the private sector; and
- Ensure that adequate financing is available for conservation sustainability.

Within the context of these SO objectives, the ABCI will seek to build both financial support and institutional commitment and capacity for conservation throughout the Amazon Basin, across civil society organizations, the private sector and public agencies. The ABCI will be implemented through at least two mechanisms: one regional contract and one or more geographically specific, sub-regional cooperative agreements. Partners and specific activities under these mechanisms will be determined through a competitive process.

Although particular activities have not yet been defined, some key themes have been identified. These include: addressing the management needs of conservation and special use areas such as indigenous areas, communal reserves, extractive reserves, integrated management areas, etc. under the control of indigenous, traditional and other local stakeholders; building capacity and commitment within civil society and government agencies for the development and implementation of effective public policies for conservation; applying best practices for natural resource management in selected areas in partnerships that cross civil society, the private sector and public agencies; and bringing innovative financial mechanisms to bear on the sustained implementation of these practices, policies and strengthened institutional capacities.

Recommended Environmental Threshold Decision

Categorical Exclusion/Deferral

The Initiative will be funded in two phases: a design phase and an implementation phase. Although specific activities under the ABCI have yet to be determined, a number of probable ABCI activities, including design-phase activities, would qualify for a categorical exclusion under 22 CFR 216.2 (c) (2) (i), “Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.)”, 22 CFR 216.2 (c) (2) (iii), “Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings”, or 22 CFR 216.2 (c) (2) (xiv), “Studies, projects or programs intended to develop the capability of recipient countries to engage in development planning, except to the extent designed to result in activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.)”. A **Categorical Exclusion** is recommended for activities under ABCI that fall under the above categories.

For all activities under the ABCI that are not categorically excluded from additional environmental review, a **Deferral** is recommended until such time as these activities are better defined. At that time, and prior to the implementation phase for such activities, a supplemental IEE shall be submitted for LAC BEO approval.

Under no circumstances will funds be used for: the procurement or use of pesticides; the purchase of equipment which could be used for commercial timber harvesting; nor activities, projects, or programs involving commercial timber harvesting unless the appropriate environmental assessment is conducted, and approved by the LAC Bureau Environmental Officer.

Date _____
LAC/RSD

Concurrence _____
Richard Loudis, Director,

Drafted:CJohnson:CMJ:6-08-05:P:\LAC.RSD.PUB\Rsdpub\EES\Amazon Initiative\Agency Planning Docs\AAD\Amazon Supplemental IEE SO22.doc

Clearance:
LAC/RSD/E, Connie Campbell _____ Date _____
LAC/RSD/E, Jerry Bisson _____ Date _____