



LAC-IEE-05-22

ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION

Activity Location:	Paraguay
Activity Title:	Advancing Development Cooperation Opportunities in the Hemisphere (ADCOH)
Activity Number:	598-021
Funding:	\$333,900
Life-of-Activity:	Approximately 5 months
IEE prepared by:	LAC/SPO, Susan Hill
Recommended Threshold Decision:	Categorical Exclusion
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.); and

a **Categorical Exclusion** is issued for the activity to provide technical assistance to Paraguay for developing its MCA Threshold Country Program.

Date

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

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USAID/Paraguay

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Director USAID/Paraguay

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**Request for Categorical Exclusion/
Initial Environmental Examination**

Activity Location: Paraguay

Activity Title: Advancing Development Cooperation Opportunities in the Hemisphere (ADCOH)

Activity Number: 598-021

Life of Activity Funding: \$333,900

Life of Activity: Approximately 5 months

IEE prepared by: LAC/SPO, Susan Hill

Date prepared: July 18, 2005

Recommended Threshold Decision: Categorical Exclusion

Background: In February 2005, the Government of Paraguay (GOP) submitted a Concept Paper for the Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC's) Threshold Country Plan. The Concept Paper addresses the challenges that result from the high level of corruption, deficiencies in the rule of law, low government effectiveness, and unfavorable business climate conditions, specifically regarding the number of days it takes to start a business, by focusing on the root causes of the debilitating problems of impunity and informality. The Concept Paper was subsequently approved by the MCC.

Summary Activity Description: The PPC/MCA Secretariat provided \$333,900 to the LAC Bureau to assist the GOP in developing their Threshold Country Program. The funds will be used to contract expert technical assistance in areas dealing with the informal economy and anti-corruption. The bulk of the \$333,900 will be provided by LAC to DCHA and EGAT to obligate in two Indefinite Quantity Contract task orders managed by those Bureaus. A small amount (\$13,500) will be provided to the Mission to be obligated directly by them.

Recommended Threshold Decision: It is recommended that a categorical exclusion be approved for the above activities to be funded from the LAC Regional ADCOH objective. The activities fall within 22 CFR Section 216.2c as follows:

- (1)(i) The action does not have an effect on the natural or physical environment
- (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.).

Concurrence: _____
Acting Director, LAC/SPO, Janet Rudasill-Allen

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