

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Paraguay
Program Title:	Environment
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	526-005
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$929,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$1,212,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: USAID's environment program consists of technical assistance and training to improve the capacity of Paraguayan leaders and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to manage three globally important eco-regions (Pantanal wetlands, Upper Parana Atlantic Forest, and Chaco dry forest). Technical assistance will also help in developing the necessary policy, legal, and financial tools for improved and effective ecological management that are integrated with efforts in Argentina, Bolivia, and Brazil.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Improve Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation (\$929,000 DA). Technical assistance will continue to support local and U.S. NGOs and local governments with emphasis on developing and implementing policies and regulations to promote financial and structural incentives for ecological management and forest conservation. Activities will take place in three globally significant eco-regions that are part of ecosystems that extend into Brazil, Bolivia and Argentina (the Chaco and Pantanal). In the Upper Parana Atlantic Forest (UPAF) eco-region in Eastern Paraguay, funds will be used to improve the capacity of local NGOs to implement conservation efforts; promote the protection of 110,000 hectares by training local and national government officials to enforce environmental regulations; implement a moratorium policy to protect against indiscriminate deforestation; and coordinate efforts with similar institutions in Brazil and Argentina. In the Northern Block portion of the UPAF, USAID will support a program to promote conservation efforts in an ecologically sensitive area where few conservation efforts have been carried out. USAID will offer technical assistance and training towards the creation of private protected areas, and improve the capacity of local government officials and local judges to enforce environmental regulations. In both the Northern Block and the rest of the UPAF, USAID will support the protection of corridors that link protected areas with each other. Principal prime contracts, grantees, and agencies include: DesdeChaco, Institute of Law and Environmental Economics, Moises Bertoni Foundation, World Wildlife Fund, and The Nature Conservancy.

FY 2006 Program: Improve Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation (\$1,212,000 DA). USAID plans to provide technical assistance and training to increase protection of important areas of the three targeted eco-regions in Paraguay. Various methods are planned to be utilized to conserve public and private land, such as resource management areas; conservation easements and leasing; land purchases and zoning; and protecting public parks. The use of financial incentives, such as the development of a national environmental fund, carbon offset projects, and other donor assistance, may be developed to encourage the conservation of vital habitat for threatened biodiversity. An alliance is planned to be established which identifies NGO, public and private sector partners interested in addressing deforestation. USAID will continue to support the decentralization of authorities so that departments and municipal governments have a greater role in addressing environmental concerns in their communities. Support is planned to improve the legal and policy framework

related to environmental issues, including the policy framework that allows for concessions and the conservation of private land. Prime grantees will include: Moises Bertoni Foundation, DesdeChaco, Institute of Law and Environmental Economics, and the World Wildlife Fund.

Performance and Results: During the past year, a Biological Vision for the UPAF was finalized and a social pact was signed by the Government of Paraguay, the private sector, community organizations, and several NGOs. The Vision lays out a plan to decrease the rate of deforestation through conversion of forests for economic use. Related to this, 6,000 hectares have been purchased for additional conservation in and around the San Rafael reserve. USAID support will help to develop management plans for this area to serve as a biological corridor between the San Rafael and Caaguazu national reserves. NGO members of the San Rafael Alliance successfully presented legal arguments to local judicial authorities to put a stop order on public land being sold to the private sector. In the Chaco, over 5,000 hectares were added to the Gran Chaco Biological Corridor. Finally, the President decreed an increase of over 90,000 hectares in the size of the Rio Negro National Park, and the Medanos del Chaco reserve was re-instated as a legally protected conservation area as a result of intense lobbying of NGOs and other stakeholders.

The capacity of national institutions such as the environmental ministry and judicial authorities has improved. This has led to greater understanding and enforcement of policy and regulation, as well as compliance with international conventions related to the environment. Departmental and municipal governments have begun to take a greater role in conservation efforts. Coordination among and between municipal and departmental governments has improved, resulting in coordinated awareness raising programs, training for local level officials, promoting land zoning and implementation of a biosphere reserve. With USAID support, the Government of Paraguay entered into an agreement with local governments to respond to environment issues in the Northern Block area. Technical assistance was provided to the congress so that it can prepare a draft water law based on technical criteria, and not just political ones. Finally, initial discussions of a debt-for-nature swap under the Tropical Forest Conservation Act have been held among USAID, other donors, NGOs and the Government of Paraguay.

Continued progress is expected to result in an improvement in the overall sustainable management and protection of the globally important eco-regions that Paraguay shares with its neighbors. Successful models, experiences, and lessons learned will be shared with Argentina, Bolivia, and Brazil.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Paraguay

526-005 Environment	DA
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	3,000
Expenditures	2,098
Unliquidated	902
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	938
Expenditures	880
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	3,938
Expenditures	2,978
Unliquidated	960
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	929
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	929
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	1,212
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	6,079