

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Central America Regional Program
Program Title:	Central America Regional Environment Program
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	596-006
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$6,365,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2004

Summary: The Regional Environmental Program for Central America supports improved environmental management, including disaster mitigation, in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor by providing training and technical assistance to: 1) improve protected area management; 2) increase access to financial resources and expanded markets for environmentally sound products and services; 3) harmonize environmental standards and regulations; and 4) increase use of less polluting technologies by municipalities and the private sector. Beneficiaries are all the people of Central America (36 million), particularly those whose livelihoods depend on the natural resource base.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Protected area management (\$1,000,000 DA). In order to improve management of protected areas, USAID will fund technical assistance to complete development of co-management guidelines, which will allow local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to work with local governments to manage protected areas. In addition, USAID will fund training in site conservation planning, financial planning, and participatory management of protected areas for park personnel. Principle grantees are: the Nature Conservancy (prime), the World Wildlife Fund (sub), and the Rainforest Alliance (sub).

Market access for environmentally sound products and services (\$800,000 DA). USAID will fund technical assistance to develop a commercial forestry database, agricultural certification models, and linkages with organic producers and markets to increase market access for environmentally sound products and services. Better management practices for traditional fisheries and coral reef conservation will be disseminated and promoted. As part of a private sector alliance, USAID will begin implementing sustainable agriculture activities and improving the way forest products are marketed. Principle grantees are: the Nature Conservancy (prime), the World Wildlife Fund (sub), and the Rainforest Alliance (sub).

Regional environmental laws and international agreements (\$925,000 DA). USAID-financed technical assistance and training will advance development of regional air quality policies, as well as regional norms on product packaging, classification, and labeling, and teach government officials how to conducting environmental inspections. In addition, USAID will focus efforts on creating the conditions to enforce key environmental agreements dealing with hazardous chemical substances. Principle grantees and agencies are: Central American Commission on Environment and Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Use of less polluting technologies (\$640,000 DA). USAID will finance technical assistance to update and finalize three environmental management guidebooks for use by municipalities in regional watersheds. Development of 15 pilot projects for slaughterhouse wastewater treatment and solid waste prevention and management will advance adoption of less polluting technologies in these industries. USAID will also test sustainable wastewater management plants in two municipalities and finance training for 30 municipalities on designing municipal solid waste and wastewater management systems and leveraging financial resources. USAID will fund technical assistance to develop bankable projects under the Central America

Regional Clean Production Development Credit Authority (DCA), which makes available a \$10 million line of credit for associations of private sector industries to incorporate environmental management into their operations. The prime contractor is Associates in Rural Development, Inc.

Small grants program (\$600,000 DA). USAID will award grants to Central American NGOs to improve environmental management in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor. Along with monitoring the first set of activities approved in FY 2003, USAID will fund assistance to recipient NGOs to strengthen their administrative and technical capacities. Principle grantee is the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE).

Fire and pest management (\$600,000 DA). USAID will fund an analysis of fire and pest management issues and organizations in Central America, and preparation of a proposal for effective financial mechanisms for fire and pest management. This project includes: a review of regulatory frameworks; creation of a web-based regional information network; training for strategy development; establishment of a small grants program; and donor coordination. The principle agency is the U.S. Department of Interior.

Mesoamerican food security early warning system (MFEWS) (\$1,000,000 DA). MFEWS will support formation of networks that provide timely information for food security. MFEWS will establish its field presence, develop an annual work plan, inventory country needs in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, begin development of a nutritional indicator, and facilitate an annual outlook conference in each country. The prime contractor is Chemonics International, Inc.

Global climate change (\$800,000 DA). USAID will fund training for national governments, universities, and NGOs on the International Panel of Climate Change Good Practices, and analyze land cover data. Technical assistance to Central American governments will assist governments in analyzing key greenhouse gas emission sources, documenting institutional arrangements, and begin preparing a template for inventory improvement plans. This project will establish a network of Geographic Information System (GIS) workstations and collate and analyze regional climate data. Principle agencies are EPA and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

FY 2005 Program:

In FY 2005, activities will be reprogrammed into the new Regional Program Plan (SO 596-022 Economic Freedom: Open, Diversified Expanding Economies) under the Central America and Mexico (CAM) Regional Strategy.

Performance and Results: USAID has established several Global Development Alliance activities including: the Mesoamerican Reef Alliance between USAID (\$1.5 million) and the United Nations Foundation (\$1.5 million); the Rainforest Certified Sustainable Products Alliance (a three-year activity to promote certified products, i.e., coffee, bananas and timber); and the Conservation International/ Starbucks coffee alliance. USAID and three Central American banks (Cuscatlán in El Salvador, Panabank in Panama, and Bancentro in Nicaragua) have established the regional Clean Production DCA, and additional banks in two other countries will join in March 2004. In Nicaragua, the concept of "Preferential Purchase Programs" was incorporated into the forestry law. Thirty-five private industries have implemented low-cost best practices in their production processes. Three municipalities in El Salvador improved solid waste and wastewater management by introducing low-cost technologies. Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras), which accounts for 832,024 hectares under improved management as a result of USAID's work, moved from level two to level three on the improved management scale.

By completion of these activities, USAID expects that 16 protected areas (more than 1.6 million hectares) will be effectively managed; and 402 forestry, agricultural and tourism operations covering 54,000 hectares will be or in process of being certified, producing 15,500 cubic meters of certified wood and 270,144 tons of certified agricultural products. Central American environmental standards and regulations will be harmonized, with greater regional capacity to apply them. A total of 60 municipalities and private sector firms will be implementing improved environmental management practices. Follow-on activities will build on these results.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Central America Regional Program

596-006 Central America Regional Environment Program	DA	DCA
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	15,072	0
Expenditures	4,201	0
Unliquidated	10,871	0
Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	10,412	469
Expenditures	5,131	0
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	25,484	469
Expenditures	9,332	0
Unliquidated	16,152	469
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	6,021	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	6,021	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	0	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	31,505	469