

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Paraguay
Program Title:	Environment
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	526-005
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$938,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$911,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2005

Summary: USAID's environment program provides technical assistance and training to Paraguayan leaders and non-governmental organizations to strengthen their capacity to manage three globally important eco-regions (Pantanal wetlands, interior Atlantic rain forest, and Chaco dry forest). USAID also helps to develop 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 2004 Program:

Chaco and Pantanal ecoregions (\$440,000 DA). USAID will provide technical assistance, focusing on improving the capacity of municipal and departmental officials to incorporate environmental designs into local development plans; develop action plans for international environmental conventions; and increase the capacity of local judges to enforce national environmental regulations. A new USAID-funded activity in the Biosphere Reserve of the Chaco will help improve the capacity of national park personnel to implement conservation activities; provide technical assistance towards establishment of biological corridors in the area; and coordinate efforts with institutions in Bolivia and Argentina. The prime implementer is the Foundation for the Sustainable Development of the Chaco Region.

Upper Parana Atlantic Forest (UPAF) ecoregion in Eastern Paraguay (\$200,000 DA). USAID will fund technical assistance to improve the capacity of ten local non-governmental organizations to implement conservation efforts in the UPAF; promote the protection of 68,000 hectares by training local government officials to enforce environmental regulations; design and implement a policy to protect against indiscriminate deforestation; and coordinate efforts with similar institutions in Brazil and Argentina. The prime implementer is World Wildlife Fund.

Northern Block sub-ecoregion of the UPAF (\$298,000 DA). USAID will promote conservation efforts in an ecologically sensitive area where few conservation efforts have been carried out to date. Technical assistance and training will assist with the creation of private protected areas and improve the capacity of local government officials to enforce environmental regulations. Policy and legal tools will be developed to improve the current environmental framework. The prime implementer is the Institute of Law and Environmental Economics.

During the year, improved coordination between involved organizations will lead to concrete decisions taken with regard to the Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA). USAID partners will use resources from their grants to promote this effort.

FY 2005 Program:

Protection of ecoregions (\$911,000 DA). USAID will increase protection of the three targeted ecoregions in Paraguay. Various methods will be used to conserve land, such as resource management areas, conservation easements and leasing, land purchases and zoning, and protection of public parks. The use of financial incentives, such as the development of a national environmental fund, carbon offset projects,

and other donor assistance, will encourage the conservation of land. Support will be provided to improve the legal and policy framework related to environmental issues. Same implementers as above.

Performance and Results: During the past year, a Biological Vision for the UPAF was developed with participation by governmental and non-governmental entities from Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil. The Vision serves as an eco-regional management document shared by all three countries and has resulted in renewed financial and political support for Paraguay's Atlantic Forest (most of the forest remaining on or near the Atlantic coast). Paraguay's Environment Secretariat has incorporated this Vision into its National Biodiversity Strategy policy. Also, two decrees contributed substantially to the protection of various sections of the UPAF. One decree established a biological corridor between two established protected areas and another declared 102,000 hectares as Resource Management Areas.

Departmental and municipal governments have begun to understand the role they can play in conservation efforts. Coordination among and between municipal and departmental governments has resulting in improved awareness-raising programs, training for local level officials, promotion of land zoning, and implementation of a biosphere reserve.

Finally, initial discussion of a debt-for-nature swap under the TFCA has been held between USAID, other donors, non-governmental organizations, 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 ecoregions 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, 2002	
Obligations	2,000
Expenditures	1,367
Unliquidated	633
Fiscal Year 2003	
Obligations	1,000
Expenditures	731
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	3,000
Expenditures	2,098
Unliquidated	902
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA	
Obligations	938
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	938
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	911
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	4,849