

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	LAC Regional
Program Title:	Conservation of Biological Resources
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	598-022
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$3,370,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$4,418,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region contains nearly half of the world's biodiversity. Despite their importance, biological resources are under severe threat due to increased urbanization, increased demand for forest resources and expansion of agricultural lands. The LAC Regional biological resources conservation strategy works to improve the conservation of the LAC region's globally significant biological resources.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Improved Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation (\$2,870,000 DA). Through the Parks in Peril program, technical assistance and training will be provided to strengthen the conservation capacity of selected threatened parks and reserves, with an emphasis on trans-border ecosystems and marine ecosystems. Technical assistance will also be provided to support national and regional systems of conservation areas, promote strategic public-private conservation alliances, and develop innovative conservation finance models. USAID support for the Amazon Basin Conservation Initiative will help improve the capacity of indigenous groups, local environmental organizations, regional cooperation organizations, and civil society to protect biodiversity in the Amazon Basin and harmonize national policies. USAID will also support three Washington-based environment advisors that oversee LAC environmental programs and three regional environmental advisors that provide coordination and technical support to USAID programs in the LAC region, while assisting with environmental training and compliance. Regional conservation initiatives may also be supported. Principal grantees and contractors are the Nature Conservancy; in-country nongovernmental organizations (The Friends of Nature Foundation, Bolivia; Defenders of Nature, Guatemala; ProNaturaleza, Peru; Pronature, Mexico); United States Forest Service; and others to be determined under a competitive process.

Improved Access to Clean Water and Sanitation (\$500,000 DA). USAID will provide technical assistance to advance long-term financing of source water protection throughout the LAC region through payment for environmental services via water funds and critical watershed debt swaps. Principal grantee: The Nature Conservancy.

FY 2006 Program: Improved Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation (\$3,900,000 DA). USAID will continue to provide technical assistance and training to strengthen the conservation capacity of selected threatened parks and reserves, multi-site strategies, strategic public-private conservation alliances, and innovative conservation finance models. USAID will continue to improve protection of the Amazon Basin through capacity building and policy harmonization. Washington-based technical advisors and regional environmental advisors will continue to be supported. Regional conservation initiatives and environmental compliance training may also be implemented. Principal contractors/grantees will be the same as above.

Improved Access to Clean Water and Sanitation (\$518,000 DA). USAID will continue to advance long-term financing of source water protection throughout the LAC region through payment for environmental services via water funds and critical watershed debt swaps. Same implementers as above.

Performance and Results: USAID continues to improve the conservation of the LAC region's globally significant biological resources. In FY 2004, the highly successful site-based Parks in Peril program increased management capacity of 12 parks in the areas of personnel, financial management, operations, and strategic planning and development. In addition, the extensive network of sites and partners established under the Parks in Peril was used to leverage higher-level conservation achievements throughout LAC. While achieving conservation objectives, priority trade initiatives were advanced in the LAC region by increasing market opportunities, enhancing productivity and competitiveness, strengthening management across international borders developing, promoting public participation in decision-making, and promoting flexible and voluntary financial mechanisms. For example, in Guatemala, the program is increasing rural prosperity and empowering communities in the Atitlan region's conservation buffer areas through enhancing productivity of coffee, the most important agricultural crop of the region. The result is increased fair trade and market share through higher value shade and organic coffees and value added processing.

In addition to its contribution to trade initiatives, the Parks in Peril program is advancing the Agency's alternative development priorities, strengthening indigenous territories, and leveraging public/private alliances. For example, in the Palcazu valley of Peru, the program is working with the Yanasha indigenous group to establish a strong presence through agroforestry systems compatible with the San Matias-San Carlos Protection Forest. To date, 500 seedlings have been propagated, and family group participation will ensure appropriate management for approximately 30% of the otherwise vulnerable buffer area of the reserve.

The program has also made advances in the areas of clean water and sanitation. Through negotiations with stakeholders and technical assistance, the long-term financing of source water protection was advanced throughout the LAC region through payment for environmental services via water funds and critical watershed debt swaps. For example, in Jamaica, the Parks in Period program multiplied USAID's investment tenfold through a Debt for Nature Swap. In recognition of the critical role that Jamaica's forests play in protecting the country's water source and its economically valuable reef systems, the program negotiated and secured a \$16 million Tropical Forest Conservation debt swap with the Jamaican government which will provide funding for critical watershed protection over the next 20 years.

Continued progress in this objective will mean that by 2007 USAID will have significantly improved the conservation of the LAC region's biological resources. Twelve additional parks, reserves and conservation areas will have adequate management capacity.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

LAC Regional

598-022 Conservation of Biological Resources	DA
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	14,729
Expenditures	9,546
Unliquidated	5,183
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	2,765
Expenditures	4,750
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	17,494
Expenditures	14,296
Unliquidated	3,198
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	3,370
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	3,370
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	4,418
Future Obligations	3,972
Est. Total Cost	29,254