



LAC-IEE-04-09

ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION

Activity Location: Bolivia

Activity Title: Road maintenance of existing gravel rural roads and construction of single lane bridge in Santa Cruz Province as part of the Alternative Development Strategic Objective.

Activity Number: 511-0643

Funding: International Narcotics Control (INC) resources, approved Life of strategic Objective (LOSO) amount of \$197,100,000

Life of Project: FY 1998 – FY 2004

IEE Drafted by: Ernest R. Rojas, AD SOT Deputy Team Leader, USAID/Bolivia

Recommended Threshold Decision: Positive Determination/Negative Determination

Bureau Threshold Decision: Concur with Recommendation

Comments:

This IEE is required because USAID has not worked in the Yapacani area. The activities were not contemplated in the CONCADE Chapare project subsequently encompassed in LAC-IEE-98-05. The project will maintain existing gravel rural roads, rehabilitate existing road maintenance equipment, procure new road maintenance equipment and construct one single-lane bridge. The bridge will be built near a national park and the maintenance of the existing roads in Yapacani was not included in the CONCADE project.

Because of the sensitive location of these activities, it is appropriate to assess their environmental impact and design a plan to mitigate any negative impacts identified. Therefore, a **Positive Determination** is issued for the road maintenance activities and the bridge building. These will require an Environmental Assessment, for which the scoping statement will be approved by the BEO before the preparation of the assessment. The EA(s) will be approved by the BEO before any maintenance or construction work begins. The requirements of this Environmental Threshold Decision and the ensuing environmental assessments will be included in the responsibilities of the implementing partners and shall be incorporated in the appropriate agreement(s).

The procurement and repair of road maintenance equipment does not in itself have any significant negative impacts on the environment. Therefore, a **Negative Determination** is issued for the purchase and repair of road maintenance equipment, but such purchase and repair shall not be implemented until the EA for road maintenance is completed. The operating unit for such equipment shall furthermore covenant in an appropriate agreement that the equipment will only be use on programs for which environmental review has been completed.

Date _____
George R. Thompson, P.E.
Bureau Environmental Officer
Bureau for Latin America & the Caribbean

Copy to : Liliana Ayalde, Director, USAID/Bolivia
Copy to : Barbara Belding, MEO, USAID/Bolivia
Copy to : PNatiello, USAID/Bolivia
Copy to : VBullen, REA, South America
Copy to : Laura Libanati, LAC/SAM
Copy to : IEE File

Attachment: IEE

INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION

Activity Location:	Yapacani, Bolivia
Activity Title:	Road maintenance of existing gravel rural roads and construction of single lane bridge in Santa Cruz Province as part of the Alternative Development Strategic Objective.
Activity Number:	511-0643
Funding:	International Narcotics Control (INC) resources, approved Life of strategic Objective (LOSO) amount of \$197,100,000
Life of Project:	FY 1998 – FY 2004
IEE Drafted by:	Ernest R. Rojas, AD SOT Deputy Team Leader, USAID/Bolivia
Recommended Threshold Decision:	Positive Determination.

I. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED THRESHOLD DECISION

This IEE is required because USAID has not worked in the Yapacani area. The activities were not contemplated in the CONCADE Chapare project subsequently encompassed in LAC-IEE-98-05. The project will maintain existing gravel rural roads, rehabilitate existing road maintenance equipment, procure new road maintenance equipment and construct one single-lane bridge. Because the bridge will be built near a national park and the maintenance of the existing roads in Yapacani was not included in the CONCADE project, the Mission recommends a **Positive Determination**. The Mission will ensure adequate funding for the required environmental assessments.

II. ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

The project will expand Chapare alternative development activities into the Yapacani area through USAID's Consolidation of Alternative Development Efforts (CONCADE). USAID plans to broaden and deepen alternative development (AD) efforts in the Yapacani area to reach larger number of families living in recently coca-free areas. The proposed activities funded with Andean Counternarcotic Initiative/International Narcotics Control (ACI/INC) resources underpin the GOB's plan to provide thousands of Chapare and Yapacani farm families with sustainable licit economic alternatives to ensure the elimination of illegal coca becomes irreversible. CONCADE will use supplemental funds to launch a larger alternative development program including the provision of road maintenance equipment and the construction of a single lane bridge.

The original IEE for CONCADE was approved in February 1998 (LAC-IEE-98-05). The EA for USAID/Bolivia Special Objective Elimination of Illicit Coca from the Chapare, was approved by LAC on September 17, 1999 (LAC-EA-99-02).

II.A. Road improvement and maintenance

One of the issues included under the original EA was the importance of road maintenance versus road construction. The possible negative impact of such construction was analyzed in depth in the EA.

Approximately 42 kilometers of farm-to-market roads in the Yapacani area will be maintained by the GOB's tertiary roads unit (Caminos Vecinales – CCVV) through subcontracts with qualified construction firms. Mitigation measures and environmental impacts will be analyzed and addressed in an environmental assessment.

III. JUSTIFICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

A bridge 180 meters long and 4.5 meters wide will be constructed approximately 10 kilometers from the entrance to Amboro National Park. Please see attachment I for location of the park. The bridge will be limited to one-lane, to guard against the use by large lumber trucks, thus reducing the incentive for illegal logging. Despite the size limit, the mission will analyze mitigation measures and impacts in an environmental assessment.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3(a) (2) (iii), the Mission recommends a **Positive Determination** for road maintenance and the bridge construction. It recommends a negative determination for the procurement and rehabilitation of road equipment.

A copy of the Environmental Threshold Decision and Initial Environmental Examination will form part of any contract documents and/or agreements with implementing partners. Also, the mission has included a copy of the terms of reference (attachments IIA and IIB) for the preparation of the two recommended environmental assessments.

APPROVED:

Liliana Ayalde
Mission Director
USAID/Bolivia

Date: _____

DISAPPROVED:

Liliana Ayalde
Mission Director
USAID/Bolivia

Date: _____

Attachments:

- I. Map Showing Amboro National Park and Proposed Bridge
- II. Two Terms of Reference to Perform Environmental Assessments

Clearances:

ENV:VBullen _____ Date: _____

AD:PNatiello _____ Date: _____

DD:ELandau _____ Date: _____

P:/CN/Env/IEE and Yapacani