



LAC-IEE-04-54

ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION

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| Activity Location: | Bolivia |
| Activity Title: | Suapi Airstrip Upgrade located in Alto Beni (Yungas) as part of the Alternative Development Objective in the Chapare and Yungas. |
| Activity Number: | 511-0643 |
| Funding: | \$400,000 of Government of Bolivia – owned, Title III reflow funds from balances to be disbursed by the PL-480 Executive Secretariat. |
| Life of Project: | FY 2004 – FY 2005 |
| SIEE Drafted by: | Ernest R. Rojas, AD SOT Deputy Team Leader, USAID/Bolivia |
| Recommended Threshold Decision: | Negative Determination with Conditions |
| Referenced Environmental Threshold Decisions: | LAC-IEE-00-58 |
| Bureau Threshold Decision: | Concur with Recommendation |

Comments:

As recognized in the IEE, some the upgrading and paving of the airport has potential environmental impact. A **Negative Determination with conditions** is issued for this construction. The conditions are those laid out in the attached IEE, as well as the additional condition that the REA will monitor construction at least once to ensure that the conditions are being met.

In addition, the Mission Environmental Officer (MEO) will conduct spot checks to ensure that all activities are implemented in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner in full accordance with all salient Agency and USG policies and regulations.

CTOs are responsible for making sure environmental requirements are met. It is the responsibility of the SO Team to ensure that the SOAG and MAARDs contain specific instructions to this effect.

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

Copy to : Liliana Ayalde, Director, USAID/Bolivia

Copy to : Ernest R. Rojas, USAID/Bolivia

Copy to : Peter Natiello, USAID/Bolivia

Copy to : Victor Bullen, S.A. REA

Copy to : Aler Grubs, LAC/SA

Copy to : IEE File

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SUPPLEMENTAL INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION

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|--|---|
| Activity Location: | Bolivia |
| Activity Title: | Suapi Airstrip Upgrade located in Alto Beni (Yungas) as part of the Alternative Development Objective in the Chapare and Yungas. |
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| SIEE Drafted by: | Ernest R. Rojas, AD SOT Deputy Team Leader, USAID/Bolivia |
| Recommended Threshold Decision: | Negative Determination with Conditions |
| Referenced Environmental Threshold Decisions: | LAC-IEE-00-58 |

I. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED THRESHOLD DECISION

This Supplemental Initial Environmental Examination (SIEE) amends LAC-IEE-00-58 to provide funding of \$400,000 to Caminos Vecinales (CCVV) to upgrade an existing rural airstrip located in Alto Beni (Yungas). LAC-IEE-00-58 covered road improvement and maintenance in the Yungas, however it did not include paving of airstrips. This SIEE recommends a **negative determination with conditions**.

II. ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

This project will consist of the upgrading of an existing rural airstrip located in Alto Beni (Yungas) that will strengthen security in the Yungas which is critical for effective development work. In addition, the upgrading of this airstrip will reduce the cost of travel and the opportunity cost to USAID-funded projects of time-consuming travel to the region to monitor project implementation. The construction of the airstrip in Suapi supports the Government of Bolivia (GOB) counternarcotics and development strategies for the Yungas.

III. JUSTIFICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

A negative determination with conditions pursuant to Section 216(a)(2)(iii) is recommended to \$400,000 to CCVV to build the airstrip that will consist of an asphalt runway – 1500 meters long by 22 meters wide. CCVV will follow their established environmental guidelines used for paving roads (see attached *Environmental Manual for the Construction of Roads Servicio Nacional de Caminos (National Road Service) – Bolivia, Chapter 12,*

Environmental Specifications for the Production and Handling of Asphalt). In addition, appropriate environmental guidelines for road rehabilitation (already approved in the EA for the Yungas Development Initiative) will be used (such as those for erosion control, drainage, revegetation, etc.) during the rehabilitation of the airstrip. CCVV will specifically assign an environmental supervisor to monitor and review the mitigation measures according to section 12.2 of the attached guidelines *Environmental specifications for the production and asphalt handling, directed to the supervisory company*.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216(a)(2)(iii), the Mission recommends a **Negative Determination with conditions** for providing funding to CCVV to build an airstrip in Suapi. A copy of CCVV's environmental guidelines have been included for your review.

APPROVED:

DISAPPROVED:

Liliana Ayalde
Mission Director
USAID/Bolivia

Liliana Ayalde
Mission Director
USAID/Bolivia

Date: _____

Clearances:

ENV:VBullen _____ Date: _____

AD:PNatiello _____ Date: _____

DD(A):MLuina _____ Date: _____