



LAC-IEE-05-11

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Country: Dominican Republic

Activity Title: Increased Sustainable Economic Opportunities for the Poor

Activity Number: 517-008

Life of RSO: FY 2003 – FY 2008

Amount: \$2 million

IEE Prepared by: Neici Zeller, USAID/DR

Date Prepared: March 21, 2005

Recommended Threshold Decision: Categorical Exclusion

Bureau Threshold Decision: Categorical Exclusion

Comments:

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i), (iii), (v), and (xiv), a **Categorical Exclusion** is issued to the proposed activities involving education, technical assistance, training and others as identified in the Supplemental IEE (attached) since they will not have an impact on the environment. This amends Threshold Decision LAC-IEE-02-24.

_____ Date _____
 Victor H. Bullen
 Bureau Environmental Officer
 Bureau for Latin America & the Caribbean

Copy to: Elena Brineman, Mission Director,
USAID/Dominican Republic

Copy to: Odalís Pérez, MEO USAID/DR

Copy to: Neici Zeller, USAID/DR

Copy to: Beth Cypser, LAC/CAR

Copy to: IEE File

SUPPLEMENTAL INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION

Strategic Objective Location: Dominican Republic

Strategic Objective Title: Increased Sustainable Economic Opportunities for the Poor

Strategic Objective Number: 517-008

Life of Strategic Objective: 6 years

Life of Strategic Objective Funding: \$29,000,000

IEE prepared by: Neici Zeller,
USAID/DR

Recommended Threshold Decision: Categorical
Exclusion

Background: On 6/27/2002, the LAC Bureau Environmental Officer issued a Categorical Exclusion (LAC-IEE-02-24) for all SO8 activities involving training, education, and others that will not have an impact on the environment, and a Negative Determination with Conditions for on-the-ground activities related to natural resources management, watershed conservation and rural electrification. The Mission has revised Intermediate Result IR 8.3 Improved Quality of Basic Education as described below. All other SO8 Intermediate Results remain unchanged. The below revised AAD contains a description of activities for achieving the education intermediate result and sub-intermediate results, contributing to achievement of the Strategic Objective.

Activity Description: IR 8.3: Improved Quality of Basic Education

This result is inter-linked, mutually reinforcing and will be pursued in an integrated manner to attain the Objective. The partners, including concerned GODR agencies, the USAID, NGOs, and experts to be financed under the terms of the Agreement, will establish an appropriate coordinating

mechanism to assure synergy among activities and the personnel involved in their implementation. All activities under the SOAG will be on training, education, and observational trips.

Activities comprise:

- o Design of teachers' guides for Reading and Math instruction;
- o Training of teachers in the use of guides, preparing class plans, evaluating students, and on topics related to health and nutrition;
- o Creation of Parent-Teacher Associations and student councils;
- o Planting of school orchards and training on how to use them as pedagogical tools;
- o Application of standardized tests and recording classroom observations to evaluate teacher performance.

Determination: The activities described above will not have a harmful effect on the natural or physical environment and will not include assistance for construction or purchase of hazardous materials or chemicals. On a purely technical basis, these activities which will be carried out under the SOAG, qualify for Categorical Exclusion according to Section 216.2(c)-(2)(i, iii, v, and xiv) of 22 CFR as (1) "Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.)"; (2) "Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings"; (3) "Document and information transfers"; and (4) "Studies, projects or programs intended to develop the capability of recipient countries to engage in development planning, except to the extent designed to result in activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.)."

Environmental action recommended: Based on the above, the Mission recommends that revised activities under SO No. 517-008, IR 8.3 *Improved Quality of Basic Education*, be given Categorical Exclusion requiring no further environmental review. Bureau Environmental Officer's Threshold Decision for all other SO8 activities remains unchanged.

Odalís Pérez
Mission Environmental Officer
USAID/Dominican Republic

Concurrence: _____
Elena Brineman
Mission Director
USAID/Dominican Republic

Date: _____

Clearances:

A/REA/C:MDonald: _____ Date: _____

PDO:DGowen: _____ Date: _____

EOT:JGoodwin: _____ Date: _____

GDO:SCarter: _____ Date: _____

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