



LAC-IEE-05-06

ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION

Country: Haiti

Activity Title: Flood Victim Support in Rural Zones of Gonaives

Activity Number: _____

Duration: 12 months (through March 2006)

Amount: \$650,000

IEE Prepared by: Danielle Typinski, Acting MEO
USAID/Haiti

Date Prepared: February 12, 2005

Recommended Threshold Decision: Categorical Exclusion/Negative Determination with Conditions

Bureau Threshold Decision: Categorical Exclusion/Negative Determination with Conditions

Comments:

This Threshold Decision covers the Flood Victim Support in Rural Zones of Gonaives activity in Haiti through March 2006. A Categorical Exclusion is recommended for Objectives 3 and 4 and a **Negative Determination with Conditions** is recommended for Objectives 1 and 2 and.

Conditions include:

1. Recommended mitigation measures from the attached IEE for Objectives 1 and 2 will be carried out as part of the activity.
2. For Objective 1, apply USAID LAC Environmental Guidelines on Irrigation from Chapter 8. Section C on Small-scale Drainage and Irrigation Systems, especially Table 8.3 Monitoring and Mitigation Issues for Small-scale Irrigation Activities.
3. For Objectives 1 and 2, limit the extraction of surface water to 20% of channel flow for irrigation and drinking water systems, and not use cross-channel dams.
4. For Objectives 1 and 2, delimit the catchment area for the water source of the irrigation and drinking water systems, and prepare a community-based watershed management plan for the catchment area.
5. For Objective 2, apply LAC Environmental Guidelines on Small-scale Water and Sanitation Activities (Chapter two, Environmental Issues and Best Practices for Small-scale Infrastructure Activities, Section B), especially Table IV.4 Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Issues for Water Supply and Sanitation Projects.
6. For Objective 2, water quality will be tested (including coliform bacteria, arsenic, etc.) as part of the rehabilitation or development of new water systems before they are used.
7. The Regional Environmental Advisor will visit the activity with MEO and CTO within the first six months of this activity, and the MEO and CTO are responsible for the review monitoring of environmental compliance practices of this activity.
8. Pesticides, including “natural” pesticides such as rotenone, neem or pyrethrin, will not be procured or used in relation to this project or its loans unless a supplemental Initial Environmental Examination is approved for their use according to USAID Environmental Procedures [216.3. (b) Pesticide Procedures analysis conducted]

CTOs are responsible for making sure environmental conditions are met. It is the responsibility of the SO Team to ensure that activity related SOAGs, MAARDs and contracting documents contain specific instructions reflecting this Threshold Decision, including the provision of (and any necessary training in the use of) the indicated LAC Environmental Guidelines for activities that have a Negative Determination with Conditions.

_____Date_____

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

Copy to: Pam Cullen, Acting Mission Director,

USAID/Haiti

Copy to: Daniel Typinski, Acting MEO, USAID/Haiti

Copy to: Milfort, Pierre Cam (HAITI/FSHA); Cadet, Marie Florence (HAITI/FSHA); Paultre, Ernest (HAITI/PCPS); Martin, Marc-Eddy (HAITI/EGE) CTO, USAID/HAITI/FSHA

Copy to; Michael Donald, Acting Regional Environmental Advisor, USAID/Guatemala Regional

Copy to: Beth Cypser, LAC/CAR

Copy to: IEE File

Attachment: IEE

File: P:\LAC.RSD.PUB\RSDPUB\EES\Reg 216\IEE\IEE05\IEE05-06.ETD(HA – Flood Victims Support Gonaives).doc

INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION

Project Location: Haiti

Project Title: Flood Victim Support in Rural Zones of Gonaives

Funding: US \$650,000

Life of Special Objective: 12 months

IEE Prepared by: Danielle Typinski, Acting MEO
USAID/Haiti

Recommended Threshold Categorical Exclusion/Negative Determination
With Conditions

Decision:

CONCURRENCE: _____
Pam Callen, Acting Mission Director
USAID/Haiti

CLEARANCE: _____
Michael Donald, Regional Environmental Advisor
Central America Region

Victor Bullen, Bureau Environment Officer
Latin America and Caribbean

Background

Haiti is one of the Caribbean's most disaster-prone countries. In the first nine months of 2004, Haiti suffered two disastrous floods. In May it is estimated that nearly 3,000 people lost their lives in flash floods along the Dominican border at Mapou and Fonds Verrettes. The disastrous floods of mid-September 2004 caused by Tropical Storm Jeanne resulted in over 2,000 deaths and affected an estimated 300,000 people through loss of homes, schools, health facilities, roads, crops, and livelihoods. Although loss of life and property damage was most visible in the city of Gonaives, the surrounding areas of Ennery, Port-de-Paix and Anse Rouge were also affected.

USAID/Haiti seeks to follow up on the U.S. Government's initial emergency support effort for affected areas with extended reconstruction and recovery efforts. The majority of efforts will be implemented under the Mission's \$34.08 million Tropical Storm Recovery Program (TSRP). The Mission will also provide an additional \$2.050 million of assistance for complementary flood response activities in rural areas of Gonaives that are not being targeted under the TSRP. Activities will address restoration of household assets, infrastructure repair, and short-term jobs creation. The three partners to implement this additional assistance are the Interamerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) (\$650,000), Fonkoze (\$500,000), and Catholic Relief Services (\$900,000). This Initial Environmental Examination addresses the activities to be implemented by IICA.

Program Description

The watershed of the La Quinte River surrounding Gonaives has suffered from the recent natural disaster. The heavy rains from Tropical Storm Jeanne produced enough water volume for the river to spillover its banks and flood a wide swath of the surrounding area. In Desbarrieres, the overflowing river resulted in approximately 1,000 deaths, 4,000 damaged homes and the destroying of all crops and livestock within 500 meters of the La Quinte's banks. In Ennery, approximately 900 families were directly affected from the flooding and production was lost in over 931 hectares.

The purpose of the IICA activity is to provide support to the flood-affected communities of Desbarrieres and Ennery by creating short-term employment and developing local institutional capacities to enable these communities to play a key role in watershed management and disaster prevention. The specific objectives of the activity include the following:

Objective #1—Job Creation and Irrigation Infrastructure Rehabilitation

The irrigation system throughout Gonaives is no longer operational due to the flooding caused by Tropical Storm Jeanne. The gravity-fed system of Desbarrieres covers about 280 hectares, from which over 500 families benefit. The primary and the secondary canals throughout the entire system are completely blocked with sediment from the flooding. The main channels of

Desbarrieres are Sanse, Bresson, and Desbarrieres; and the main channels of Ennery are Mosambe, Abricot, and Sanse.

IICA will work with the local committees in Desbarrieres and Ennery to conduct an initial assessment of damage, initiate cleaning of irrigation channels, and help repair hydraulics. The local committees will receive on-the-job management training and IICA oversight to adequately supervise contracted labor and ensure transparent use of funds and accounts rendered to the community. IICA will purchase tools such as shovels, picks and wheelbarrows to carry out these works. In Ennery, 37 distribution points for the irrigation system will be cleaned and repaired, while 9 points will be targeted in Desbarrieres. A total of 720 short-term jobs will be created over a period of ten months.

IICA will also provide seeds to 500 families for sorghum, eggplant, and chili pepper crops.

Objective #2—Rehabilitation of Drinking Water System in Ennery

The drinking water system for Ennery was installed in 1979 and a water committee was also formed. During the last two years, the system experienced failures due to increased demands from double the amount of users than was envisaged. The spring for this system was overrun by river flooding resulting from Jeanne. The municipality would also like to develop another spring three kilometers away to meet increased demand.

Objective #3—Local Strategic Planning and Capacity Building

IICA will engage local community-based organizations in planning exercises to develop a comprehensive plan for the development of their geographical portion of the watershed. Activities include the development of a watershed management plan, the establishment of emergency management committees, and the training of local organization members in advocacy and administrative skills.

Objective #4—Emergency Educational Opportunities

IICA will provide generators to three primary schools and install lighting at total of ten schools so that evening classes can be held for secondary school students who can no longer attend school in Gonaives. Salary incentives will also be provided for local qualified teachers on short courses on relevant subjects to help students maintain academic levels. IICA will target 250 students and 20 teachers under Objective #4.

Environmental Impact and Mitigation Measures

Institutional capacity building in the form of training and technical assistance is an important component of the IICA activity. Technical assistance activities under this activity that will not negatively impact the physical or natural environment include those related to disaster preparedness, watershed management instruction, and organizational capacity building. The following activities may have potential negative impacts on the environment—repair of irrigation and water/sanitation systems. Irrigation system rehabilitation could lead to

disruptions in the hydrological cycle, an inefficient use of scarce water resources and soil quality impacts. Potential negative environmental and social impacts under the water supply component of the IICA activity could occur as a result of improper siting and design, the generation of debris, or unresolved land tenure issues.

Under Objective #1 of the activity, IICA shall carry out the following mitigation measures:

- Carry out an analysis of available surface water supplies;
- Improve user's understanding of stream and wetland ecology;
- Improve training of farmers and users group on water conservation; and
- Define crop water requirements.

IICA shall also conduct an environmental review of the irrigation infrastructure component to be implemented under this activity by using the attached "Environmental Review Checklist for Irrigation Infrastructure" as guidance. The environmental review will be furnished to the Mission Environmental Officer or a designate for approval prior to beginning rehabilitation work to the system.

Under Objective #2 of the activity, IICA shall carry out the following mitigation measures:

- Carry out an analysis of available surface and groundwater supplies
- Educate well users on proper use and maintenance and provide training.
- Ensure that the new irrigation piping will be installed in accordance with land tenure provisions or conditions to avoid social or legal conflict.

IICA shall also conduct an environmental review of the water supply component to be implemented under this activity by using the attached "Environmental Review Checklist for Small-Scale Infrastructure" as guidance. The environmental review will be furnished to the Mission Environmental Officer or a designate for review and approval prior to beginning construction work.

Below are other mitigation measures that are to be applied to the appropriate activities:

- 1) All implementing partners must ensure that the appropriate safety tools, equipment, and training are made available to all community members participating in rehabilitation activities.
- 2) IICA shall ensure that relevant environmental mitigation and monitoring measures established in this Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) be routinely incorporated into all activities. All mitigation measures in the table shall be tracked for implementation and effectiveness.
- 3) All local community members engaged in IICA activities will be instructed in the mitigation measures. Community organizations will be supplied with a copy of the mitigation measures for relevant activities outlined in this IEE in Creole.

- 4) All solid wastes generated at the site by IICA, community members, or workers will be disposed of in an environmentally-friendly manner.
- 5) Only minimal vegetation clearing for construction activities is authorized. Forested areas should be avoided during construction.
- 6) The CTO and MEO will conduct spot checks to ensure that the primary partners implement the measures set forth under this IEE (as the security situation permits).
- 7) The following language will be included in the contract or agreement developed under this program:
- 8) “The Grantees and/or Contractors agree that all activities funded under this Agreement will comply with all environmental requirements applicable to USAID-financed activities, including those set forth in Title 22 of the United States Code of Federal Regulations Part 216.”

It is not expected at this time that the agricultural productivity activities under the IICA activity will involve the purchase, handling, or application of pesticides. However, if activities that involve agro-chemicals are subsequently added, a supplemental IEE will be submitted to the LAC Bureau upon the final design of those activities.

The mitigation measures specified above should alleviate any significant environmental concerns associated with the proposed IICA activity. It is therefore concluded that this activity can be implemented in an environmentally-sound and sustainable manner in full accordance with all relevant USAID and U.S. Government environmental policies and regulations.

Monitoring and Reporting

This activity will be managed by the Policy Coordination and Program Support (PCPS) office. The CTO will be responsible for monitoring and verifying the implementation of mitigation measures throughout the life of the activity, ensuring compliance with categorical exclusion and negative determination threshold decisions recommended for all components of the activity. The MEO will assist with the monitoring of environmental compliance practices when requested.

IICA will be responsible for compiling a report on environmental compliance at six and twelve months from the initiation of the activity. The MEO is responsible for reviewing and approving these compliance reports.

Recommendations for Threshold Decision

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i), (v) and (xiv), a *Categorical Exclusion* is recommended for Objectives #3 and #4 which involve the provision of technical assistance, education and

training, and institutional capacity building, which have no significant impact on the environment.

A Negative Determination with Conditions is recommended for Objectives #1 and #2 which involve the repair of irrigation and water/sanitation systems. Significant adverse environmental impacts are not foreseeable from the implementation of these activities *if the mitigation measures outlined in this IEE are used*. IICA is responsible for identifying potential minor impacts and appropriate mitigation measures for each reconstruction activity.

rehabilit