



LAC-IEE-04-65

ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION

GEOGRAPHIC AREA: Central America

ACTIVITY TITLE: 020-002 “Building Public Private Alliances”
SO 596-005 “Increased Central American Competitiveness in Global Markets (PROALCA II)”

ACTIVITY NUMBER: 020-002 and 596-005

DURATION: September 29, 2004 to June 30, 2005

LOP FUNDING: US\$ 500,000 (FY03)
US\$ 400,000 (FY04)

IEE PREPARED BY: Zoila Aurora Letona, TEA BOM

RECOMMENDED THRESHOLD DECISION: Negative Determination

IEE REFERENCE: LAC-IEE-03-83 & LAC-IEE-01-36

Bureau Threshold Decision: Concur with Recommendation

Comments: A **Negative Determination** is issued for this activity as part of CAFTA, to improve treatment of animals destined for exportation and improve agricultural practices, both of which improve marketing in the industrialized world.

This project is to be implemented by Counterpart International and HSUS and will promote activities that if anything will improve the environment, by reducing illicit trafficking in exotic animals, and increasing the use of organic methods in agriculture. It will have no negative impact on the environment.

CTOs should be made aware that they are responsible for making sure environmental requirements are met. They should monitor if all activities fall under the types of illustrative activities identified in the attached IEE. If not, additional environmental review must follow.

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

- Copy to : Glenn Anders, Director, USAID/G-CAP
- Copy to : Anne Dix, REO, USAID/G-CAP
- Copy to : Letona Zoila, INR, USAID/ G-CAP
- Copy to : James Stein, G-CAP
- Copy to : Loren Stoddard, G-CAP
- Copy to : Michael Kerst, LAC/CAM
- Copy to : Michael Donald, REA, Central America
- Copy to : IEE File

Attachment: IEE

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INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION

GEOGRAPHIC AREA: Central America

ACTIVITY TITLE: 020-002 “Building Public Private Alliances”
SO 596-005 “Increased Central American Competitiveness in Global Markets (PROALCA II)”

ACTIVITY NUMBER: 020-002 and 596-005

DURATION: September 29, 2004 to June 30, 2005

LOP FUNDING: US\$ 500,000 (FY03)
US\$ 400,000 (FY04)

IEE PREPARED BY: Zoila Aurora Letona, TEA BOM

RECOMMENDED THRESHOLD DECISION: Negative Determination

DATE PREPARED: September 22, 2004

IEE REFERENCE: LAC-IEE-03-83 & LAC-IEE-01-36

Comments:

This IEE amends LAC-IEE-03-83 (The CAFTA Alliance for Trade Capacity Building) approved by the Acting LAC Bureau Environmental Officer on 9/24/03 to include this activity that is in response to a request from the GDA Secretariat Annual Program Statement for The CAFTA Alliance for Trade Capacity Building. This alliance is being executed by the Counterpart International (CI). It is expected that this activity extension be implemented during nine months, September 29, 2004 to June 30, 2005.

This is an extended activity that falls under PROALCA II, Intermediate Result 4: Effective Preparation of Central America for Free Trade Negotiations. USAID will obligate in FY04 DA funds \$400,000 from PROALCA II.

RECOMMENDATION FOR THRESHOLD DECISION:

Pursuant to Section 216.2(a) of A.I.D. environmental procedures, environmental review is required for new activities or for new components added during revision or amendments that were not previously subject to environment review. The attached package is presented in order to amend the Activity Title and Number, for activities carried out under SO5 “Increased C.A. Competitiveness in Global Markets (PROALCA II)” Activity Number: 596-0184. These activities qualify for a negative determination due to neutral effects on the environment.

Concurrence:

Glenn Anders
Mission Director, USAID/G-CAP

Date:

OVERVIEW AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This IEE covers the activities that will be undertaken to fulfill USAID/G-CAP's objectives that support USAID/G SO 596-005 "Increased C.A. Competitiveness in Global Markets (PROALCA II)."

This activity is in response to a GDA Secretariat request for alliance presented to the USAID/G-CAP to assist the implementation of CAFTA. The Cooperative Agreement with Counterpart International, CI, was originally funded under the Strategic Objective No. 020-002 "Building Public Private Alliances" of the Global Development Alliance Secretariat. It will now be extended with \$400,000 from USAID/Guatemala Central America Programs, Increased Central American Competitiveness in Global Markets (PROALCA II) Program. The activity objective is to support the improvement of decision-making in sustainable agriculture in Central America by establishing systems for humane treatment of animals and environmental sustainability that promote rural development, domestic markets, and market opportunities in the United States and elsewhere and the improvement of the customs regimes to ensure more humane systems in each of the CAFTA countries, allowing for a more efficient flow of goods between the United States and the CAFTA countries and eliminating illicit activities.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:

The following are illustrative activities to be carried out:

A. Improve Decision-Making in Sustainable Agriculture in Central America by Establishing Systems for Humane Treatment of Animals and Environmental Sustainability that Promote Rural Development, Domestic Markets, and Market Opportunities in the United States and Elsewhere.

1. Animal Welfare Initiative:

CI, in collaboration with its chief alliance partner, HSUS will work with government, trade and key private sector enterprises and individuals to share information, provide coordination and hands-on follow-up to ensure best practices adoption and a significant measurable improvement in the overall welfare of commercial and non-commercial, wild and domestic animals. Expected results include increased adoption and compliance with national animal welfare laws, increased adoption of the "Humane Certified" label in terms of both value and volume of trade under such labels, as well as a report on animal welfare "best practices" and lessons learned from on the ground community-based veterinary services.

Expected Results

CI, in collaboration with HSUS is expected to achieve the following results:

- Animal Welfare Laws and Compliance—Adoption and initial implementation of at least one new major animal welfare law or policy in two or more CAFTA countries.
- Rural Veterinary Services “Best Practices”—Provision of pilot rural veterinary services in at least three CAFTA countries resulting in a set of key learnings, “best practices,” and/or case studies that will support and inform overall animal welfare law adoption and compliance efforts as mentioned above for all participating CAFTA countries.

2. Organic Cacao Production:

CI, in collaboration with HSUS and private sector buyers and broker partners from Costa Rica and elsewhere, will work to significantly enhance organic cacao certification and related exports for both the United States and regional Central American markets.

Expected Results

- Certification and Sales—Finalization of organic certification for at least 250 small and medium organic cacao producers in each cacao producing country and achievement of initial organic cacao orders and sales of at least 15 tons of certified cacao sales per each cacao producing country.

B. Improve the Customs Regimes to Ensure More Humane Systems in Each of the CAFTA Countries, Allowing for a More Efficient Flow of Goods Between the U.S. and the CAFTA Countries and Eliminating Illicit Activities

CI, in partnership with its alliance partners, will provide training to Central American Customs Officials of each CAFTA country on issues related to animals illicitly traded and the disposition of seized animals to shelters and rehabilitation centers, and ultimately the release and reintroduction of seized animals to natural habitats.

Expected Results

- **CITES Compliance**—CI, in collaboration with HSUS, will undertake activities to measurably and significantly increase CITES adoption and compliance, ideally in the form of at least one new law or major policy change adopted for each participating CAFTA country. Illustrative activities to achieve this result are: conferences, workshops and other informational activities.

For all of these activities, the assistance itself does not have negative environmental impacts, and USAID does not have direct control of implementation.

A Negative Determination is recommended for the activity to assist the implementation of CAFTA, which is called “**CAFTA Alliance for Trade Capacity Building**” and is executed by **Counterpart International (CI)**

This recommendation is based on the fact there will be negligible effects on the environment because it involves transference of knowledge and information, training, and technical assistance.

CLERANCE PAGE

INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION Amendment

ACTIVITY TITLE: 020-002 “Building Public Private Alliances”

SO 596-005 “Increase C.A. Competitiveness in Global Markets (PROALCA II)”

ACTIVITY NUMBER: 596-0184 (CI)

CLEARANCES:

Michael Donald, REA	_____	DATE _____
James Stein, TEA	_____	DATE _____
Liliana Gil, PDM	_____	DATE _____