



LAC-IEE-05-12

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Country: Dominican Republic

Activity Title: More Participatory, Representative and Accountable Democracy Achieved

Activity Number: 517-009

Life of RSO: FY 2002 – FY 2007

Amount: \$30 million

IEE Prepared by: Maricela Ramírez,, USAID/DR

Date Prepared: April 20, 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

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USAID/Dominican Republic

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SUPPLEMENTAL INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION

<u>Strategic Objective Location:</u>	Dominican Republic
<u>Strategic Objective Title:</u>	More Participatory, Representative and Accountable Democracy Achieved
<u>Strategic Objective Number:</u>	517-009
<u>Life of Strategic Objective:</u>	6 years
<u>Life of Strategic Objective Funding:</u>	\$30,000,000
<u>IEE prepared by:</u> USAID/DR	Maricela Ramírez,
<u>Recommended Threshold Decision:</u>	Categorical Exclusion

Background: On 6/27/2002, the LAC Bureau Environmental Officer issued a Categorical Exclusion (LAC-IEE-02-24) to the activities under the Democracy and Governance strategy (2002-2007). As a result of the mid-term strategy revision conducted by the Mission, the SO9 Strategy includes now 3 new Intermediate Results. The AAD has also being revised and includes new activities.

Activity Description: The purpose of the democracy and governance strategic objective is to make the democratic system in the Dominican Republic more participatory, representative and accountable. In order to achieve the above Objective USAID will enter into a amended Strategic Objective Agreement (SOAG) with the Government of the Dominican Republic. In the SOAG the Parties will agree to work together to achieve the following three Intermediate Results (IRs):

**IR 9.1 More Representative and Effective Electoral
and**

Political processes.

**IR 9.2 Increased Transparency of Public
Administration**

**IR 9.3 More Effective and Fair Criminal Justice
System.**

These results are 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 are financed under the terms of the Agreement and have established an appropriate coordinating mechanism to assure synergy among activities and the personnel involved in their implementation. All activities under the SOAG will be on policy, technical assistance, assessments, exchange visits, democracy related training, education, and observational trips.

The illustrative activities include:

- 1) Organize/coordinate workshops, seminars and other activities to debate issues related to the strengthening of the Dominican electoral system and advocate for implementation of enacted reforms.
- 2) Organize educational activities to motivate citizens to become active, conscientious, and informed voters.
- 3) In presidential elections, organize TV panels with presidential and/or vice-presidential candidates and selected civil society representatives to discuss candidates' platforms and civil society national agendas.
- 4) Organize a campaign to motivate citizenry to become involved in the electoral observation process
- 5) Monitor, at the national level, the expenses incurred by the political parties and GODR in their TV and radio advertising campaigns.
- 6) Technical Assistance to civil society to enable them to advocate for and monitor the debate and enactment

of a Political Party Law (*Ley de Partidos Políticos*).

- 7) Assistance to civil society organizations and press and media to include a combination of targeted grants, training, and joint actions to increase public awareness and demand for justice reform.
 - a. Assessments and planning, action plan design, implementation, and follow-on evaluation as part of the organizational strengthening processes for the Judiciary and other Rule of Law organizations.
 - b. Professional enhancement for Public Defense officials including functional skills training for Public Defense lawyers and observational travel and/or attendance at regional forums on Public Defense.
- 8) Assistance to both government and civil society organizations (joint and/or separate) in assessment, analysis, debate, consensus building, enactment, implementation, and monitoring of key rule of law and justice sector reforms.
- 9) Technical assistance to enable GODR to effectively implement the new Criminal Procedures Code.
- 10) Improved inter-agency cooperation to combat corruption: Inter-institutional cooperation workshops will be conducted with participation by officials of diverse GODR organizations; and when appropriate, civil society; to enable information and data sharing between the various GODR organizations which develop information and data supporting anti-corruption prosecutions.
- 11) Design and funding of Conferences, Forums, Workshops and observational travel to link cognizant organizations of the Dominican State and civil society to international, regional and national anti-corruption program efforts.

The Democracy and Governance Strategic Objective does also contain some activities that will positively impact the environment. These activities include the reform of the

electoral law to prohibit damaging the environment during political campaigns (excessive noise and littering) and training of prosecutors responsible for the enforcement of environmental laws and regulations and related technical assistance to the offices of the Assistant Attorney General for Environmental Enforcement.

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 activities under SO No. 517-009 as amended be given Categorical Exclusion requiring no further environmental review.

Concurrence

Odalís Pérez
Mission Environmental Officer
USAID/Dominican Republic

Concurrence:

Elena Brineman
Mission Director
USAID/Dominican Republic

Date:

Clearances:

A/REA:MDonald _____ Date: _____

GDO:SCarter _____ Date: _____

PDO:DGowen: _____ Date: _____

File: D