



LAC-IEE-04-15

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Project Location: Guyana

Project Title: Democratic Governance Consolidated

Project Number: 504-006

Funding: US\$ 10 million

Life of SO: 2004-2008

IEE Prepared by: Jeffrey Miller, REA (Caribbean)
Chloe Noble, USAID/Guyana

Recommended Threshold Decision : Categorical Exclusion

Bureau Threshold Decision: Concur with Recommendation

Comments:

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i), (iii), (v) and (xiv), a **Categorical Exclusion** is issued for activities involving the provision of technical assistance, policy dialogue, education, workshops and others as identified in the IEE as these will not have an impact on the environment.

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

Copy to : Mike Sarhan, Director, USAID/Guyana

Copy to : Chloe Noble, USAID/Guyana

Copy to : Dhanmattie Sohai, MEO, USAID/Guyana

Copy to : Kenneth Lizzio, USAID/Guyana

Copy to : Jeffrey Miller, REA

Copy to : Sukhi Dosanjh, LAC/CAR

Copy to : IEE File

Attachment: IEE

INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION
Project Number 504-006

Project Location: Guyana
Project Title: Democratic Governance Consolidated
Project Number: 504-006
Funding: US\$ 10 million
Life of SO: 2004-2008
IEE Prepared by: Jeffrey Miller, REA (Caribbean)
Chloe Noble, USAID/Guyana
Clearance: Jeffrey Miller, REA (Caribbean)
Recommended: Categorical Exclusion

Threshold Decision:

CONCURRENCE

Kenneth Lizzio
Senior Democracy & Governance Advisor
USAID/Guyana

MISSION DIRECTOR'S
DECISION

Approved: _____
Mike Sarhan

Date: _____

LAC BUREAU
ENVIRONMENTAL
OFFICER'S DECISION

Approved: _____
George Thompson

Date: _____

Background

A sectoral analysis done while planning the Strategic Objective concluded that national patterns of ethnic politicization are at the root of a relatively exclusive political system, and that the current structure and capacity of governmental institutions contribute to political gridlock, poor governance, and the potential for violent confrontation.

Historical forces have resulted in the emergence of the two dominant political parties, which coalesced primarily along ethnic lines. Consequently, high levels of suspicion and antagonism characterize political interaction at the national level. Top-down, centralized politics relegates citizens to playing a minor role. Though rank-and-file members serve as the voting base of the two major parties, effective mechanisms to hear and to respond to local needs and opportunities are lacking. This results in most average citizens feeling helpless and alienated, and skeptical of the capacity of politicians to assist them in meeting the day-to-day challenges posed by Guyana's declining economy and deteriorating social fabric.

Program Description

The goal of the Mission's Democracy & Governance Strategic Objective (SO #504-006) is *Democratic Governance Consolidated*. This will be achieved through *increasing citizen participation in policy making, improving transparency and accountability in governance, and reducing vulnerability to ethnic and political conflict*, all of which are essential to the consolidation of democracy in Guyana.

Without fundamental reform, the country seems poised for continued ethnic conflict, limited citizen participation, and accusations of poor governance and corruption. To overcome these barriers and contribute to the consolidation of democratic governance in Guyana, USAID will emphasize initiatives in local government and civil society, which are linked to strategically identified openings and opportunities at the national level.

Specific outcomes are expected by the end of the strategy period in 2008. These include:

- Political parties adopt and practice campaign code of ethical behavior.
- GECOM is able to prepare and manage elections independent of technical support.
- Local and national elections are peacefully accepted.
- Local government is empowered to collect revenue, plan activities, and provide some select services efficiently.
- Citizens have understanding of local and national issues.
- Civil society (commissions, advisory groups, associations) regularly provides contributions to policy making at local and national levels of government.
- Several local and national CSOs have increased membership, revenue, and lobbying ability at local and national levels of government.
- ADR is adopted and leads to improved administration of justice for civil cases.
- Media undertakes informed, balanced and objective reporting, investigations, and editorials.

- Public records, GOG budgets and contracts are available to parliament, citizens, and CSOs in a timely manner.
- Corruption in government tendering is reduced.
- A new political space is created that transcends the bi-polar nature of current politics.

Program Implementation

SO #504-006 will be managed by a Senior DG Advisor, assisted by a Civil Society Advisor, who supervise and coordinate the work of implementing partner(s), which are still to be selected after a competitive bidding process

Description of Environmental Impact

Under most circumstances the components of this program are basically training, counseling and technical assistance, thus having no negative impact on the physical environment or posing any significant risk on the welfare of the surrounding communities as well as non-target organisms.

Recommendations for Threshold Decision

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i), (iii), (v) and (xiv), a **Categorical Exclusion** is recommended to activities involving the provision of technical assistance, policy dialogue, education, workshops and others as identified in the IEE as these will not have an impact on the environment.