



LAC-IEE-04-34

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Project Location: Haiti

Project Title: Democracy Enhancement Project (DEP)

Project Number: 521-0236

Funding: US \$62.1 million
This Amendment: \$6.4 million

Life of Project: FY 1996 - FY 2005

IEE Ref: LAC-IEE-99-14

IEE Prepared by: Jean Wesnel C. Saint Cyr, MEO
USAID/Haiti

Recommended Threshold Decision Categorical exclusion

Bureau Threshold Decision: Concur with Recommendation

Comments:

With the expansion of the current PACD and subsequent addition of significant funding for the Mission's reconstruction effort, which implies new activities, the existing IEE needs to be amended to take into account these changes. This amendment to LAC-IEE-99-14 IEE is being submitted in accordance with the Agency's environmental regulations (22 CFR216) and applies to all new activities and those for which environmental documentation is still outstanding.

The USAID/Haiti Justice, Democracy and Governance (JDG) program supports the attainment of genuinely inclusive democratic governance in Haiti. At present for FY 2004, the JDG program will allocate overall approximately \$6.4 million from various sources including Development Assistance (DA), Economic Support (ESF), Victims of Torture (VOT), and Trafficking in Persons (TIPs) funding for justice, governance, and democracy initiatives. Programs target political party development and justice sector reform as well as anti-corruption, advocacy organizations and the independent media. All activities to achieve this are training,

public information, operational research, monitoring, education and counseling which will have no direct effect on the environment, and thus fall under the class of actions eligible for a categorical exclusion. Therefore, per 22CFR216.2(c)(1)(i)&(ii), a **Categorical Exclusion** is issued for this amendment.

If any changes in the program which may have significant impact are contemplated, an additional IEE amendment must be completed. CTOs are responsible for making sure environmental requirements are met. It is the responsibility of the SO Team to ensure that the SOAG and MAARDs for contracts and grants contain specific instructions to this effect.

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

- Copy to : David Adams, Director, USAID/Haiti
- Copy to : Jean Wesnel C. Saint Cyr, MEO, USAID/Haiti
- Copy to : Grace Lang, USAID/Haiti
- Copy to : Jeffrey Miller, REA
- Copy to : Gerald Barth, LAC/CAR
- Copy to : IEE File

Attachment: IEE

P:\LAC.RSD.PUB\RSDPUB\EES\Reg 216\IEE\IEE04\IEE04-34.CE(HT-DEPamd3).doc

**INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION
Amendment # 3**

Project Location: Haiti

Project Title: Democracy Enhancement Project (DEP)

Project Number: 521-0236

Funding: US \$62.1 million
This Amendment: \$6.4 million

Life of Project: FY 1996 - FY 2005

IEE Prepared by: Jean Wesnel C. Saint Cyr, MEO
USAID/Haiti

Recommended Threshold Decision Categorical exclusion

CONCURRENCE

Sally Patton, Office Chief
Policy Coordination and Program Support (PCPS)

Grace Lang, Acting Chief
Economic Growth & Education Office
USAID/Haiti

CLEARANCE

Jeffrey Miller, USAID/Caribbean Region
Regional Environmental Advisor

**MISSION DIRECTOR'S
DECISION**

Approved: _____ Date: __ _____

**LAC CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL
OFFICER'S DECISION**

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Background and Purpose of Amendment

Overall, both knowledge of democracy and democratic institutions are weak in Haiti. Haitians often do not know how to exercise their rights of citizenship and to participate in the political process. At present, the country's political transition remains extremely fragile. Haiti's history of authoritarian tradition has created a dysfunctional relationship between citizens and their government. The majority of citizens have long viewed government as an agent of oppression while a minority has looked to it as a source of patronage. The idea of a representative and transparent government responsive to citizen participation is foreign to most Haitians. Also, Haitians have little access to knowledge regarding the structures and practices of their democratic system, including how to be an active and engaged citizen.

Lawlessness and destabilization of society, which became acute in the final days of the Aristide government and continued with the transition to the new Interim Government of Haiti (IGOH), have now transformed the above mentioned chronic problems into an acute situation in Haiti calling for an emergency response from all donors. USAID proposes to respond quickly to the three most immediate problems: de-escalation of violence, job creation, and institutional development including support for institutionally weak democratic and civil society institutions. To date, much of USAID/Haiti's democracy-building efforts have been overshadowed by the debilitating political stalemate and transition to the new IGOH. However, with this transition considerable opportunities are now seen as open to bring about democratic change within Haitian society under the new interim government.

The Democracy Enhancement Project was authorized on May 31, 1991 with a budget of \$11 million in grant funds. Since then it has been amended several times to increase the life of project and to extend the PACD. The latest amendment was in August 2003, which authorized the extension of the PACD through September 30, 2005 to allow the completion of current activities and the launching of new ones under this project.

In August 6, 1999, the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) for the Democracy Enhancement Project (Re: LAC-IEE-97-14) was amended to authorize the implementation of new agricultural activities. A Negative Determination with conditions was issued by the LAC Bureau Environmental Officer (Re: LAC-IEE-99-14).

With the expansion of the current PACD and subsequent addition of significant funding for the Mission's reconstruction effort, which implies new activities, the existing IEE needs to be amended to take into account these changes. This amendment to LAC-IEE-99-14 IEE is being submitted in accordance with the Agency's environmental regulations (22 CFR216) and applies to all new activities and those for which environmental documentation is still outstanding.

Program Description

The USAID/Haiti Justice, Democracy and Governance (JDG) program supports the attainment of genuinely inclusive democratic governance in Haiti. At present for FY 2004, the JDG program will allocate overall approximately \$6.4 million from various sources including Development Assistance (DA), Economic Support (ESF), Victims of Torture (VOT), and

Trafficking in Persons (TIPs) funding for justice, governance, and democracy initiatives. Programs target political party development and justice sector reform as well as anti-corruption, advocacy organizations and the independent media. The program achieves the above through the following interrelated set of activities:

1. Elections are more credible: Activities support the following objectives for political party and domestic election observer strengthening:

- Assist political parties develop the necessary political skills and organization to compete effectively at the local, municipal, legislative, and national level;
- Assist political parties to generate and adopt detailed party platforms;
- Assist civil society groups and citizens to explore new approaches and instruments to interact with political parties; and
- Reinforce institutional capacities for the central election observer organization.

2. People increasingly treated according to the rule of law: Activities support the following objectives to develop the institutional capacities of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), rule of law and human rights abuses:

- Institution building for the MOJ, including advisors and training for judges and prosecutors;
- Building constituencies and forging coalitions to advocate for the rule of law;
- Working for the improvement of conditions of Haitian children living in domesticity;
- Identifying the causes, patterns, conditions under which children from Haiti are trafficked to the Dominican Republic (DR);
- Providing basic health and education services to Haitian children working as illegal workers in the DR; and
- Undertaking research activities and providing treatment to victims of torture and other related human rights abuses.

3. Civil society organizations positively influence policies: Through support for independent media, anti-corruption, and grassroots civic fora activities, objectives include:

- Civic education;
- Training of journalists and journalist associations in civic education and advocacy, respectively;
- Equipment and fundraising for community radio;
- Establishment of an “Ethics-Integrity Transparency” resource center and anti-corruption coalition;
- Community based training to increase the knowledge of the Haitian democratic process;

- Development of constructive relations between constituents and elected officials; and
- Foster citizen participation and transparent electoral processes

Targeted Ecosystem

Most of the activities are of technical assistance and training type thus will have no effect on the physical environment.

Description of Environmental Impact

All proposed activities under the Democracy Enhancement Project are basically training and technical assistance; therefore, they will have no direct biophysical effect on the environment.

Recommended Mitigation Measures for Democracy Enhancement Project Activities

No Mitigation Measures are proposed for these activities.

Recommendations

Pursuant to USAID environmental regulations expressed in 22 CFR, section 216.2 (c)(1)(i),(ii), we request your approval for a **categorical exclusion** from further environmental review for all activities involving program monitoring and administration, technical assistance and training activities, and other actions that will not have an adverse impact on the natural or physical environment.