

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Paraguay
Program Title:	Environment
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	526-005
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$920,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: USAID's environment program consists of technical assistance and training to improve the capacity of Paraguayan leaders and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to manage three globally important eco-regions (Pantanal wetlands, Upper Parana Atlantic forest, and Chaco forest). Technical assistance is also being used to develop the necessary policy, legal, and financial tools for improved and effective ecological management that are integrated with efforts in Argentina, Bolivia, and Brazil.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Improve Sustainable Management Of Natural Resources and Biodiversity (\$920,000 DA). USAID is providing technical assistance to NGOs and local governments to increase their capacity to develop legislation to promote financial and structural incentives (such as a national environmental fund and carbon offset projects) for ecological management and forest conservation in three globally significant eco-regions. Technical assistance is being provided to conserve public and private land by establishing resource management areas, conservation easements and leasing, land purchases and zoning, and protecting public parks. USAID is supporting decentralization efforts so that departments and municipal governments have a greater role in addressing environmental concerns in their communities. USAID is supporting NGOs and other local entities in the Chaco and Pantanal eco-regions in improving the capacity of municipal and departmental officials to incorporate environmental designs into local development plans. Incentives will also encourage actions that contribute to compliance with international environmental conventions and increase the capacity of local officials to enforce national environmental regulations. Technical assistance is provided to improve the capacity of national park personnel in the Chaco to implement conservation activities, establish biological corridors, and coordinate efforts with local institutions and institutions in Bolivia and Argentina. In the Upper Parana Atlantic Forest eco-region, funds are used to improve the capacity of five local NGOs to implement conservation efforts and promote the protection of approximately 100,000 hectares through activities that include the training of local and national government officials to enforce environmental regulations. USAID continues to encourage a debt swap between the Government of Paraguay, the U.S. Department of Treasury, and U.S. NGOs. A moratorium policy to protect against indiscriminate deforestation and a coordinated effort with institutions in Brazil and Argentina is also being supported. A Global Development Alliance activity continues to provide support to ensure sustainability of the Tapyta Reserve. USAID provides technical assistance to support conservation efforts in an ecologically sensitive area where few conservation efforts have been carried out. USAID promotes and offers technical assistance and training towards the creation of private protected areas, and improves the capacity of local government officials to enforce environmental regulations. USAID is also supporting the preparation of draft policy and legal tools to improve the current environmental framework. Principal contractor and grantees: World Wildlife Foundation, Institute of Law and Environmental Economics, Moises Bertoni Foundation and one other local contractor.

FY 2007 Program:

No obligations are planned in FY 2007.

Performance and Results: During the past year, implementation of a Biological Vision for the Upper Parana Atlantic Forest and a Social Pact began, both aimed at decreasing the rate of deforestation. As a result, over 3,000 hectares have been purchased as a part of the San Rafael conservation strategy. One private reserve of 4,700 hectares was created and an effort to create a second reserve of 15,000 hectares is underway. In the Chaco, over seven million hectares (approximately one-fifth of the region) was established by the Government of Paraguay and formally recognized by the United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization. This international recognition is significant because it provides added legal protection and puts additional pressure on all levels of government to enforce environmental laws in this area.

The performance of national and local level institutions charged with environmental management and protection has improved. A guide proposed by the environmental ministry will enhance the ability of prosecutors and others to investigate and suspend activities that violate environmental laws and norms. This has led to greater understanding and enforcement of policy and regulation, as well as compliance with international conventions related to the environment. Departmental and municipal governments have begun to assume a greater role in conservation efforts. With USAID assistance, the governors of two departments in the Chaco, in conjunction with two municipalities, promoted discussion of environmental issues which resulted in identification of environmental concerns and possible ways to address them. Improved coordination amongst and between municipal and departmental governments has also resulted in improved awareness of environmental issues, improved capacity of local level officials, strengthened land zoning, and implementation of a biosphere reserve. Support to governors also resulted in the creation of departmental development councils and legally binding development plans to the year 2010 that were established through an open and transparent participative process. USAID, through a local NGO, provided assistance to one municipality experiencing serious illegal land invasions and related environmental problems, which resulted in a cadastre that is assisting the municipality to determine actions to resolve improper land use and environmental issues. That NGO has established itself as the legal environmental law expert for the congress. This has led to their critical input in policy matters such as the development of the draft Water Law and the draft General Environmental Law. Finally, negotiations for a debt-for-nature swap under the Tropical Forest Conservation Act have begun. USAID and its local environmental partners have provided critical input into the process.

USAID's environment program will result in an improvement in the overall sustainable management and protection of the globally important eco-regions that Paraguay shares with its neighbors. Successful models, experience, and lessons learned will be shared with Argentina, Bolivia, and Brazil.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Paraguay

526-005 Environment	DA
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	3,926
Expenditures	2,563
Unliquidated	1,363
Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	929
Expenditures	1,205
Through September 30, 2005	
Obligations	4,855
Expenditures	3,768
Unliquidated	1,087
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	920
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006	
Obligations	920
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA	
Obligations	0
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	5,775