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EVALUATION OF USAID OPG
TO ASCONA

(No. 515-0142)001701

by

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San José, Costa Rica

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USAID/CR Operational Program Grant

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 1978 the Costa Rican Mission of USAID authorized a two-year, \$240,000 Operational Program Grant (OPG) for the private conservation-oriented organization, ASCONA. Prior to the OPG, ASCONA operated on a meager budget and with only volunteer services. The organization had shown clear signs, however, of socio-political influence regarding environmental and conservation issues in Costa Rica.

The USAID OPG has enabled ASCONA to hire a top quality, full-time Executive Director, a competent 5-member technical/educational staff and some clerical personnel. This injection of AID funds has had a profound impact on the growth, development and future stability of ASCONA. Though only half-way through the grant period, ASCONA's membership and donation income has increased dramatically, its voice is heard almost daily on television, on radio, or in the press, and its influence is reaching high levels of government.

The motto and beacon of ASCONA is "DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT DESTRUCTION". The organization has two fundamental goals: the long-term goal of conservation education for the youth and general public, and the short-term goal of forceful action against those in Costa Rica who disregard environmental quality and resource conservation for future generations.

This OPG was well-conceived and is being administered by USAID/CR and ASCONA in a competent and professional manner. The budget, though small, is adequate for this initial grant. USAID funds are being very effectively spent by ASCONA.

The USAID/CR Mission, especially Mission Director Stephen Knaebel, is commended for its creativity in preparation of this OPG and its courage to authorize funds to a private organization like ASCONA. This organization may well become a model for all of Latin America.

I strongly recommend that the USAID/CR Mission support financially and in other ways, the activities and programs of ASCONA beyond the termination of the current grant. This small contribution of American dollars will pay high dividends in the future of this marvelous friend, the Republic of Costa Rica.

ASCONA -- Asociación Costarricense para la Conservación de la Naturaleza

Dr. Frank D. Schaumburg
USAID Consultant
24 October 1979

A. Purpose and Scope of Evaluation

1. Review mandate. Item E-1 on page 21 of the OPG Project Paper mandates that "A joint USAID/ASCONA review will be held at the end of the ninth month of operation to evaluate project progress and to reprogram projects as necessary." The Project Schedule shown in Annex D of the Project Paper noted that this review was to be undertaken in June 1979, i.e., nine months after the September 1978 starting date of the project. However due to delays in initiating the project, AID elected to postpone the first evaluation until after the first full year, i.e., in October 1979.

2. Evaluation specifications. Specifications and instructions for the conduct of this evaluation are listed in a USAID Purchase Order (No. 112 79) to Dr. Frank D. Schaumburg and dated 9/20/79. This document essentially requests an in-depth evaluation of the progress of the USAID OPG to ASCONA with emphasis on the three major objectives:
 - a. mass educational activities
 - b. environmental research and investigation activities, and
 - c. institutional strengthening activities for ASCONAThis evaluation was to be conducted during a 10-day period extending from 14 to 24 October 1979.

3. Credentials of Evaluator/Consultant. Dr. Frank D. Schaumburg is a Professor of Environmental Engineering at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon, USA. He holds a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from Arizona State University and M.S. and PhD degrees in Environmental Engineering from Purdue University.

For a 12-month period during 1977-78, Dr. Schaumburg was on sabbatical leave from OSU and served as a Senior Consultant to UNESCO. His mission dealt with environmental education for all engineers in so-called developing countries including the Philippines, Venezuela(4 months), Guatemala, Mexico and Costa Rica(8 months). During his assignment in Costa Rica he became familiar with environmental and conservation programs as well as the social, economic, cultural, educational, and political realities of the country. The Consultant holds the Republic of Costa Rica and its people in high esteem.

4. Information sources. The evaluation included in this report is based primarily upon the following sources of information:
- a. USAID files dealing with the ASCONA OPG
 - b. personal interviews with members of the USAID/CR Mission, ASCONA Staff, and ASCONA Board members
 - AID--Stephen Knaebel, Gus Daniels, Robert Mowbray, John Fasullo, Stephen Haynes, and Mary Kilgour
 - ASCONA Staff--Ing. Gilberto Ugalde E. (Executive Director), Valery Terwilliger (Peace Corps Volunteer), Gabriel Quesada, and Cedric Haynes (a short term consultant from the Canadian Executive Service Overseas)
 - ASCONA Board--Lynne Hartshorne and Rolando Mendoza Hernández plus a special meeting with the full Board
 - c. personal interview with Ing. Murray Silberman, a past President of ASCONA and a key figure in the early development of ASCONA and the OPG
 - d. personal interview with Srta. Carmen Bonilla, Director of the TV Channel 13 weekly program "Buenos Tardes Familia". (ASCONA receives 10-13 minutes of free TV coverage on this program each week)
 - e. personal interview with Mr. Marvin Weissman, US Ambassador to Costa Rica
 - f. visit to an ASCONA affiliate 'club' in Puriscal. This included an interview with the club coordinator, Fermín Matarrita and visits to two elementary schools where ASCONA's Valery Terwilliger made excellent presentations to students

on the topic of reforestation and forest conservation.

- g. review of materials prepared by ASCONA since the OPG began including: 4 bi-monthly bulletins; numerous investigation reports, planning documents, by-laws, plus others.
- h. ad hoc visits with persons not associated with USAID or ASCONA; review of newspaper articles; and a variety of other materials.

5. Comments and appraisal.

- . The 10-day period of evaluation is short but adequate in recognition of the size and scope of this OPG. The Evaluator was invited by ASCONA to attend several other program activities, however there was insufficient time to accept these invitations.
- . The representatives of USAID/CR and ASCONA were very cordial, non-evasive and willing to assist in every possible way with this evaluation. The ASCONA Executive Director promptly responded to all requests for documents and information.
- . The concept of OPG evaluation on an annual basis is an important element in project management and control. It appears that evaluators who are not affiliated with AID could provide the most objective review.

B. Goal, Purpose, and Scope of the OPG

1. Goal and purpose. The goal of this OPG as stated in the Project Paper is "to protect Costa Rica's natural resources so that their long term contribution to economic development can be maximized." The purpose of the project is "to increase the effectiveness of the Costa Rican private sector in promoting national resource conservation and environmental protection."
2. Specific objectives. There are essentially three primary objectives established for this project. These are:
 - a. the development and conduct of mass educational activities related to environmental quality control and conservation practices.
 - b. the design and conduct of research investigations which focus on important national, regional and local environmental and conservation problems. and
 - c. the establishment of a sound organizational and financial base for the future stability of ASCONA.Each of these objectives will be dealt with in detail in succeeding sections of this report.
3. Scope. The OPG provides budgetary support to ASCONA for the two-year period extending from 31 August 1978 through 30 August 1980. During this period AID will provide a total of \$240,000 for technical assistance, commodities, and operations. ASCONA has agreed to provide \$265,000 of 'matching money' which includes volunteer time and in-kind donations.
4. Comments and appraisal.
 - . This OPG was well-conceived, well-written and is being professionally administered. The stated objectives mesh well together, the budget is realistic, and the goal and

purpose are valid and achievable.

The only shortcoming of the OPG found in this evaluation deals with the initial scheduling of project activities and flow of disbursements. The OPG design did not allow an adequate period of time for ASCONA to develop a 'critical mass' of staff to respond to the tasks specified in the OPG. Prior to this OPG ASCONA had no paid Executive Director (or administrative officer) or technical staff and only token clerical assistance.

As a personal footnote to this section of the report, I wish to comment that the orientation of this OPG and the mission of ASCONA will contribute significantly to providing the 'non-technological' solutions to environmental problems which I refer to in my recent paper entitled "Critical Path for Environmental Management in Developing Countries of Latin America". (J. of Environmental Systems 1979-80). A copy of this paper is attached as Appendix A.

C. ASCONA

1. What is ASCONA? The Asociación Costarricense para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (ASCONA) is a private conservation organization which has adopted the guiding motto "DESARROLLO SIN DESTRUCCION." ASCONA is legally constituted and is listed in the Registro de Asociaciones. In March 1978 it was declared an Asociación de Utilidad Pública by the Ministerio de Gobernación Policía Justicia y Gracia. This status allows the solicitation of tax deductible donations.
2. Historical development. ASCONA was first organized in September 1972 by a small group of persons concerned about the natural environment and its future status in Costa Rica. The organization grew slowly but progressively in membership, stature and influence until September 1978 when the USAID/CR OPG was authorized. Prior to the OPG nearly all activity was on a voluntary basis since the organization lacked an adequate budget to hire a competent permanent staff or an Executive Director.

There does not appear to be a concise and organized summary of the activities of ASCONA prior to 1978. The only documentation available is in the form of loosely organized and incomplete minutes of past Board meetings.

The successes achieved by ASCONA during its formative years, 1972-78, were undoubtedly the result of dedicated volunteer work of some of the competent members of the past Boards and organization at-large. Leadership during that period was weak and inconsistent.

ASCONA 'turned the corner' as a viable and influential conservation organization shortly after the USAID OPG was authorized. This grant provided a sufficient funding base to enable ASCONA to hire a top quality, full-time Executive Director, a 5-member technical staff and clerical personnel.

As a direct result of the enthusiastic and tireless efforts of the Director and his entire staff and the sound philosophical direction of ASCONA, the paid-up membership has risen to over 250. Many new applications are received daily at the ASCONA office.

3. Organization. The Executive Director is primarily responsible for final program planning and budgetary control. Members of his technical staff develop plans for future research and educational activities but these must be approved by the Director. Major programs, activities and public pronouncements are presented to the Board for review and comment. The Board also provides policy guidance for the organization. Refer to Appendix B for a current organizational chart for ASCONA.
4. By-laws. ASCONA follows a well-defined set of by-laws which were recently (Sept. 1979) printed in booklet form. Among the many by-laws is one which calls for two meetings per year of the entire ASCONA membership i.e., the General Assembly. The first meeting is in September during which time elections are held for Board members. The second meeting is held in March.
5. Board of Directors. The by-laws specify a Board membership of eleven(11) plus five(5) alternates. The Board elected in September 1979 is constituted as shown below:

ASCONA Board of Directors

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Office</u> | <u>Expertise/Background</u> |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---|
| Dr. Guillermo Constenla U. | President | Chemist |
| Dr. Joseph Tossi O. | 1st V. President | Ecologist |
| Lic. Sergio Salas D. | 2nd V. President | Biologist |
| Sr. José A. Madrigal S. | 1st Secretary | Univ. Student |
| Sra. Ana V. Calzada P. | 2nd Secretary | Scientific journalist |
| Sr. Juan José R. Góngora | Treasurer | Accountant |
| Prof Carlos Murilla Ulate | 1st Vocal | Science teacher |
| Ing. Romilio Rodríguez Arce | 2nd Vocal | Ag. engineer |
| Sr. Luis Sáenz Cruz | 3rd Vocal | Computer science tech.. |
| Prof. Agueda Samora Salas | 4th Vocal | Primary school teacher |
| Ing. Hugo Brenes Cortés | 5th Vocal | Agronomist |
| Dr. Federico Sosto Peralta | Alternate | Medical doctor |
| Ing. Federico Paredes V. | Alternate | Ag. engineer. |
| Arq. Oscar Hutt Gil | Alternate | Architect |
| Lic. Ricardo Qusada L. | Alternate | Lawyer |
| Sr. Robert Chaverri P. | Alternate | Civil worker |
| Dr. Rodrigo Barahona I. | Fiscal | Doctor of Law |
| Dr. Edgar Ugalde A. | Honorary | Dr. in international law |
| Ing. Adelaida Chaverri P. | Honorary | Forest engineer |
| Dr. Rodolfo Quirós G | Past President | Dr. in Agriculture (former Minister of Agr.) |

The Board holds formal meetings twice per month and other meetings as needed. A special Meeting was called to meet with this Evaluator.

6. ASCONA Staff. The current paid staff includes the following persons:

| <u>Staff Member</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Expertise</u> | <u>Funded by ASCONA or AID</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ing. Gilberto Ugalde E. | Director Ejecutivo | Ag. Economist | 2/3-AID & 1/3 ASCONA |
| Alexander Bonilla | Coordinador Técnico | Geographer/ Ecologist | AID |
| Gabriel Quesada | Técnico Biología | Biologist | AID |
| Margarita Rojas Ch. | Técnico Forestal | For. Eng. Tech. | AID |
| Patricia Herrera C. | Educadora | For. Eng. Tech. | AID |
| Baby Granados | Asistente Gen. de Oficina | Office Mgmt. | AID & ASCONA |
| Ana Isabel Morera | Secretaria | | AID |
| Owen Ramírez R. | Técnico en Supervision | | AID |
| Valerie Terwilliger | Peace Corps Vol. | Biology | Peace Corps |
| Ma. Eulalia Quirós Q. | Receptionista | | AID |
| Leonardo Obando | Mensajero | | ASCONA |
| Marina Castro | Conserje | | ASCONA |

ASCONA is fortunate to have assembled this competent staff on short notice. The uncertainty of funding of ASCONA beyond the 30 August 1980 termination date of the OPG resulted in recruiting difficulties. Many excellent technical persons sought positions with ASCONA but several would not leave more secure positions.

Executive Director. In mid-January 1979, ASCONA retained the services of Ing. Gilberto Ugalde as the full-time Executive Director of the organization. Ing. Ugalde brought to ASCONA excellent technical credentials, national stature in agricultural economics, professional administrative capability and inspirational leadership. In my opinion, the dramatic rise in stature of

ASCONA in recent months is due primarily to the outstanding leadership of the Director. He is well-organized, efficient, soft-spoken yet tactfully aggressive, a tireless worker, a 'doer' rather than just a 'talker', and is not influenced by big business, big industry or powerful governmental pressures. With Ing. Ugalde at the helm, the future of ASCONA appears very bright.

Alexander Bonilla, the technical coordinator, was hired by ASCONA^{as a} technical specialist in ecology. Though I was unable to personally interview Sr. Bonilla, I did examine some of the investigative reports which he has prepared as well as some of his newspaper articles and educational materials. Mr. Bonilla is well-known throughout Costa Rica as an excellent natural scientist. He has been responsible for most of the television and radio coverage received by ASCONA.

Valery Terwilliger is a Peace Corps Volunteer assigned to ASCONA as a conservation education specialist. I had the good fortune to observe Valery at work in two schools in the economically depressed area of Puriscal. The school children were drawn to Valery as a person and in response to her message on forest conservation. More dedicated people like Valery are needed by ASCONA and by other organizations in developing countries. ASCONA is actively trying to recruit another Peace Corps Volunteer who would be stationed at the affiliate club in San Carlos.

7. Membership. There are two types of membership in ASCONA, Associate and Donor (or Sustaining) members. As of October 1, 1979 there were 211 paid-up Associate members and many others who have not yet paid their annual dues. In addition, there has been a big surge of membership applications since October 1. Dues for Associate members are 60 colones per year. At one time dues were set at 200 colones, however this was changed earlier this year to encourage a larger and broader membership.

The first Annual Report published by ASCONA in September 1979 lists 16 sustaining members including a number of industries and organizations.

At the present time the Executive Director is assuming primary responsibility for membership solicitation. This is a major task and demands more time than the Director can effectively allocate. Recently the Director sent letters to 356 members of the chemical engineering society and subsequently received 71 membership applications, a 20% return.

ASCONA membership includes a wide variety of influential persons in government, industry, education and the private sector. Some examples follow:

- Former Minister of Finance
- Former Minister of Agriculture
- Former Vice President of Costa Rica
- Former Ambassador to Great Britain
- Dutch Diplomat
- Director of the Peace Corps in Costa Rica
- University Professors
- President of Board of CR Coffee Office
- Prominent Bankers, Lawyers and Businessmen

8. Planning. Each quarter the technical coordinator provides the Director with a listing and schedule of educational and investigative activities planned for the succeeding three months. After review and approval by the Director, and in some instances the Board, the activities are carried out. Following the final month of the quarter the Director prepares a summary of all activities which were actually undertaken. The experience of the past six months has shown that about 50% more activities are accomplished than were originally scheduled. This is due to the large number of short notice and unanticipated requests for ASCONA involvement.
9. Bookkeeping, auditing and legal. ASCONA has retained the services of a professional accountant to monitor the financial records of the organization on a continuing basis. In addition the Board Treasurer, who is also an accountant, provides 'as needed' services. The ASCONA Administrative Assistant, Baby Granados, provides day-to-day bookkeeping service.
Legal services for ASCONA are included in the OPG budget. There does not appear to have been much legal service provided during the first year of this project.
10. Philosophy, direction and image. During the period of 1972 to 1978 ASCONA appears to have 'earned' the image of an activist-type organization. Many people viewed ASCONA as an organization which was "against everything, especially progress". It is likely that this image will soon fade and a new one arise as a consequence of the philosophy of the new Director and new Board. The

current and near future direction of ASCONA appears to be more moderate, i.e., to allow resource development which is based on sound planning and management. Image is a very important consideration for a conservation organization which must rely upon public support to generate pressure and influence.

D. OPG Objective No. 1:

Mass Educational Activities

An evaluation was made of each of the 17 specific tasks outlined on pages 6 and 7 of the Project Paper. A summary of findings together with comments follows:

1. Task. Develop, in cooperation with CEMEC, a film program for high school students on conservation and environmental matters.

Progress. Originally, this task was to have been completed with the cooperation of Channel 13. Subsequently it was determined that Channel 13 was not adequately equipped to make a quality film of the type desired. Consequently, this project has now been hired out to a private company. Work is underway.

2. Task. Publish bi-monthly bulletins and distribute approximately 4000 copies.

Progress. ASCONA has completed and distributed four, attractive and readable Boletins. These have included articles on a wide variety of national, regional and local conservation and environmental subjects. Up to the present time the Executive Director has assumed responsibility for managing the production of these publications. In the future, however, this task will be assigned to Srta. Margarita Rojas. Presently only 1000 copies of the Boletin are printed and distributed. This will be increased to 1500 for the next issue and perhaps more in the future. The distribution list includes: public libraries, universities, ministries of the government, church bishops, all Associate members, AID, CATIE, Peace Corps, clinics and offices, schools visited by ASCONA staff and others as appropriate. A general distribution to schools throughout the country has been withheld since most copies would likely be "lost in the shuffle" at the schools.

3. Task. Prepare and print 12-15 topical pamphlets dealing with important environmental and conservation matters.

Progress. The ASCONA staff has already prepared over 10 of these pamphlets which cover a broad range of topics. A listing of major printed matter produced by ASCONA up to 15 October 1979 is attached in Appendix C.

4. Task. Translate and publish international articles of interest which have local application.

Progress. Each bi-monthly Boletin includes articles or news items which have been translated from English or another language. Also on Environment Day, some translated articles were placed in the Costa Rican press. ASCONA hires a professional translator to translate materials which subsequently appear in print for public consumption.

5. Task. Prepare at least 8 slide presentations and accompanying recorded narratives on cassetts for use by schools, private organizations and clubs.

Progress. ASCONA has developed over 20 slide-oriented programs for presentation to groups. Since a suitable audio tape recorder has not yet been acquired, all slide presentations have been made by ASCONA staff and personal narration. This has been highly effective but very time-consuming.

6. Task. Prepare various pamphlets dealing with conservation matters for use at elementary schools and at the campesino level.

Progress. Some of the investigative reports and educational materials have been prepared for distribution to persons at low educational levels. ASCONA intends to intensify their efforts in this area during 1980.

7. Task. Publish annual reports which include a summary of ASCONA's publications, seminars, lectures and investigations related to the OPG.

Progress. Executive Director Ugalde prepares quarterly reports which include the items listed above. In addition, one annual report was published in September 1979. These reports are forwarded to the USAID/CR office and other copies are available for internal use.

8. Task. Create a library which includes collections of slides, maps, pamphlets, articles and books on themes dealing with environment and conservation.

Progress. ASCONA has begun to develop a reference library which will likely become the most comprehensive in Costa Rica. There now exists a collection of over 800 slides, a complete set of maps (courtesy of the National Geographic Institute), and a small, but growing collection of relevant books and articles.

9. Task. Place posters, stickers and signs around the country which draw attention to environmental quality and resource conservation.

Progress. ASCONA has participated in the design, funding and mass distribution of two types of plastic litter bags to help promote litter control. Two posters have been prepared and are being displayed around the country.

A large quantity of stickers are on order and should be available soon. Some of these will be sold at cost, and others will be given away. Also being produced are 2000 large, attractive calendars for 1980. These will be distributed to Associate members and selected persons and groups.

10. Task. Contract the services of a cartoonist on a part-time basis to prepare drawings of a topical nature.

Progress. A limited amount of this work has been completed, some in cooperation with the National Park Service. More drawings will be requested during 1980.

11. Task. Produce a monthly 'shot' or slide on a topical basis for presentation in principal movie theaters in Costa Rica.

Progress. This has been done in Puriscal and one is being prepared for the San Carlos affiliate. Due to the high level of interest in movies in Costa Rica, more emphasis could be placed on this activity in 1980, especially in San José.

12. Task. Prepare a number of generalized spot announcements for radio and television.

Progress. ASCONA has had tremendous success during the past year in obtaining wide exposure on radio, on television and in the press throughout the country. Most of this media time has been contributed without cost to ASCONA. In fact all news media are now coming to ASCONA for news, views, and commentary. ASCONA is currently receiving: 10-12 radio interviews per month from four major stations; one 10 to 13 minute weekly appearance on the Channel 13 afternoon program "Buenos Tardes Familia" plus one interview per month on other TV channels; and an average of over one article per day in the press. The newspaper La Republica has offered free coverage on an 'as wanted' basis. This Evaluator, together with Director Ugalde, met with Srta. Carmen Bonilla, the producer of "Buenos Tardes Familia". She expressed high praise for the mission of ASCONA and the quality of programs presented. Channel 13 has received only positive response to ASCONA's programs. Srta. Bonilla expressed a keen interest in continuing the ASCONA program segment on an indefinite basis.

13. Task. Issue a weekly bulletin announcing ASCONA's planned public activities.

Progress. This is done for all major activities and announcements are carried in local newspapers. A weekly bulletin does not appear necessary at the present time.

14. Task. Arrange weekly and daily programs with Channel 13 and Radio Nacional.

Progress. This task is discussed under Item 11 above.

15. Task. Sponsor and present 5 seminars or public forums on a national level to develop sound recommendations for government consideration.

Progress. ASCONA has sponsored or co-sponsored more than 20 public seminars and 'round tables' throughout the country. Topics have included: pesticide usage; use of remote sensing for environmental monitoring; deforestation and reforestation; soil conservation; solid waste handling and disposal; oil pipeline; and others. A detailed listing of major activities is included in Appendix D.

16. Task. Sponsor and present seminars in each provincial capital for local government officials, technicians and educators on environmental and conservations problems of local and regional concern.

Progress. Seminars and round tables have been sponsored in several provinces, but not necessarily in the provincial capital. Seminars have been given in three locations in Guanacaste, at three locations in Alejuela, and other parts of the country.

17. Task. Carryout five institutional seminars for school administrators and science teachers in five regions of the country.

Progress. Such seminars have been given in Puntarenas, Guapiles, Quesada, Puriscal, Liberia and Acosta. Others are planned.

18. Unplanned Activities.

ASCONA staff and volunteer members are frequently called upon, often on short notice, to make special presentations to civic clubs, business and professional groups, school groups, and to interested citizens.

ASCONA has found considerable success in involving the Church in conservation-related matters. ASCONA information is sometimes carried in Church bulletins. Recently ASCONA prepared a current status report on deforestation for the Archbishop, at his request.

- . ASCONA's educational staff has been highly active in elementary and high schools at selected sites in the country. ASCONA has been asked to design a special course on resource conservation at Colegio Agropecuario de Santa Clara, a high school in San Carlos.

E. OPG Objective No. 2: Investigations

The educational mission of ASCONA involves two separate components, one dealing with basic principles of environmental quality and resource conservation and the second involving specific problems of current concern in Costa Rica. Information on basic principles is readily available in textbooks and the published literature, however, very little detailed information is available in the country. The investigative activities of ASCONA have been and should continue to provide this solid base of technical information. As a result of the investigations and research studies, ASCONA is better able to articulate its position on critical environmental and conservation issues. There is no substitute for facts!

The Project Paper specifies 6 tasks for completion. Progress toward each of these is reported below.

1. Task. Plan and carry out legal defense programs against those who violate established environmental and conservation laws and regulations.

Progress. Apparently very little has been done related to this task. It is suggested that the ASCONA Executive Director and Board meet with the lawyer assigned this task and determine the extent of activity or inactivity after one year.

2. Task. Index all existing legislation, treaties and regulations relating to environmental and conservation matters.

Progress. Supposedly this is being undertaken, but as yet no evidence of results has been produced by the lawyer responsible.

3. Task. Sponsor seminars and conferences among lawyers on the theme "The Role of Natural Resources within the Legal Framework of Costa Rica".

Progress. One such program has been completed, others are planned for 1980.

4. Task. Propose and guide legal action to ASCONA affiliates in relation to local problems.

Progress. Only a minimal effort has been given to date.

5. Task. Provide technical assistance to the Government of Costa Rica relating to environmental and conservation problems.

Progress. ASCONA has provided technical assistance and technical information to the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Education, to the President of the Republic, and to other persons in government.

6. Task. Conduct studies and assessments of Costa Rica's natural resources to be used by development planners.

Progress. The ASCONA staff has been highly active in undertaking investigations for subsequent educational purposes, for media dissemination and for natural resource planners. A summary of investigations since June 1979 is given in Appendix D.

F. OPG Objective No. 3:

Institutional Strengthening

Perhaps the most important objective of the USAID OPG is the one dealing with the strengthening of ASCONA as a private, conservation organization. Prior to the authorization of the OPG, ASCONA had acquired a small membership and some limited governmental influence. However since the OPG, ASCONA has rapidly become a relatively smooth-functioning and effective public interest organization. The Project Paper specified 3 tasks for completion.

1. Task. Acquire the services of a person experienced in fund raising for a short duration.

Progress. ASCONA was fortunate to receive the services of Mr. Cedric Haynes from the Canadian Executive Services Overseas for a one-month assignment during October 1979. Mr. Haynes has offered numerous suggestions and guidance to ASCONA relating to this important task. Some of his suggestions will likely be utilized by ASCONA in the near future.

2. Task. Establish long range and short range goals for ASCONA.

Progress. There is some question on the part of the Executive Director and this Evaluator regarding the essence of this task. The Director intends to discuss this with USAID/CR to clarify the meaning of the task.

3. Task. Establish affiliate clubs throughout the country.

Progress. Two affiliate clubs have been established, one in Puriscal, the other in San Carlos. Several others are in the process of application. A successful application requires a minimum of 20 paid-up members.

G. Budget

The USAID/CR OPG authorized an expenditure of \$240,000 during the two-year grant period. ASCONA was charged with providing \$265,000 of 'matching money', the majority of which will be of 'in-kind' contributions such as personal services of members; free postage within the country; free TV, radio and press coverage; and many other types. Some specific comments regarding the ASCONA budget follow:

1. Categories. The \$240,000 AID contribution is divided into 3 major categories, \$87,330 for technical assistance, \$29,400 for supplies and equipment and \$132,270 for operations and management. All three categories appear to be under close control by the Executive Director and the paid accountant.
2. Progress on disbursements. The 30 September 1979 quarterly report prepared by USAID/CR shows that only 28% of the available funds had been spent although 54% of the grant time had elapsed. These numbers are misleading and do not accurately reflect the current status of the budget. First, AID considered disbursements only up through 31 August 1979 but 'time elapsed' through 30 September 1979. During September 1979 ASCONA committed a large amount of funds for supplies and equipment. According to the most recent budget report by ASCONA, over 47% of the AID monies were disbursed through 30 September 1979. Hence the flow of disbursements is reasonably close to target. A second disparity involves the "cargas sociales" category for all personnel. ASCONA has reserved funds for the "13th month" payment to employees in December. These accumulated reserves will be charged against the AID account as a lump sum at the end of the calendar year. The third and primary reason for the lag in disbursements is the 3-to 5-month lag in the active initiation of the OPG.
3. ASCONA contribution. The Executive Director has kept excellent records, on a specially-designed form, to show the ASCONA contribution to the project. Copies of these records will be forwarded to the USAID/CR office in the near future.
4. Vehicle. In June 1979 ASCONA received written permission from the USAID/CR office to make minor budget adjustments. This included the transfer of funds budgeted for a vehicle to bolster some other categories which were inadequately funded. Though the transfer was necessary, ASCONA could

certainly make effective use of at least one vehicle in its investigative and educational activities.

5. Projected use of funds. The Executive Director, together with his administrative staff, and the accountant, have maintained accurate, up-to-date financial records. The Director is also currently completing a budget plan for the remaining project period. There is a possibility that a brief extension of the grant period may be needed to effectively utilize the budgeted funds, however the extension should not exceed 2 to 3 months.

H. Recommendations

For ASCONA: Based upon this 10-day evaluation of ASCONA and its progress with the USAID OPG, the following recommendations, or perhaps more properly-suggestions-are offered:

1. Hire additional staff in conservation education and in fund-raising. Time demands on current staff are excessive and the present level of enthusiasm may wane as workloads continue to increase.
2. Expand library collections of books, journals, articles, and audio-visual materials. Then encourage use by students at all levels, government officials, businesses, and private citizens. Consider ways to encourage the contribution of new and pertinent books, possibly as gifts "in memory of" some deceased person or "in honor of" some special person or organization.
3. Provide video tapes to Channel 13 so that a permanent record can be kept of weekly ASCONA programs on the station.
4. Consider the addition of a 'student' membership category for ASCONA with annual membership dues of perhaps 10 colones. This could significantly expand the membership (and political influence) base, increase dues income, and 'seed' future Associate members. Student members could be placed on the ASCONA mailing list and be given a voice in the General Assembly, but without voting privileges.
5. Request funding from USAID/CR or other sources to create a modest water quality laboratory (and/or air quality laboratory). Currently there is very little environmental quality monitoring by the government in Costa Rica. ASCONA could greatly expand its 'watch dog' activities for the private sector of Costa Rica if this laboratory capability was available. This would also create a form of subtle pressure on the government for increased monitoring activity.
6. Seek funding for a vehicle for use in educational and investigative activities.
7. Maintain a daily log of all ASCONA activities. Include such information as dates, locations, topics discussed or studied, attendance at meetings, media coverage, etc. This could become a valuable source of information for the future and semi-quantitative evidence of growing influence.
8. Design a special ASCONA cover sheet for all investigative reports and written educational materials.

9. Prepare simple, illustrated booklets for school children which deal with conservation topics.
10. Ask LACSA for permission to place a current ASCONA Boletin in the seat-back pockets of its international fleet. The Executive Director should solicit the assistance of a prestigious member in approaching LACSA.
11. Significantly expand the activity of the legal services available to ASCONA and funded by USAID.
12. Maintain or intensify the attack against those persons and institutions in Costa Rica who ignore resource conservation and continue to degrade the physical environment of this beautiful country.

Recommendations for USAID/CR:

1. Future OPGs to small, private groups should allow up to a 6-month period for organization and the assembly of a critical mass staff. The Schedule of Activities in Appendix D of the Project Paper for this OPG was overly optimistic.
2. Close liaison between AID staff and ASCONA should be continued.
3. Provide whatever assistance (and leverage) that is possible, to get ASCONA recognized by the U.S. Government as a 'charitable organization'. This could have a very significant impact on the long-term financial stability of ASCONA.
4. Because of the unanticipated, but inevitable lag in initiating this OPG, thoughtful consideration should be given to a request from ASCONA, if one is made, for a short (2-3months) extension of the project period. There is no doubt that ASCONA could and would be able to consume all remaining OPG funds prior to the 30 August 1980 termination date, however the efficient and prudent use of these funds would likely be negatively affected.
5. Based upon the outstanding accomplishments of ASCONA since March 1979 and the prudent use of AID funds to date, this AID Mission should give high priority consideration to another OPG proposal from ASCONA---if its goals, objectives, scope of work and budget are well-conceived.
6. Continue to include periodic program evaluations as an integral part of OPGs and loans. Whenever possible and feasible, utilize evaluator/consultants who are familiar with developing countries and who are not affiliated with USAID.
7. Fund one or more visits to Costa Rica of high-ranking representatives of influential conservation organizations in the USA, such as the Sierra Club. Such visits would focus considerable national (both in Costa Rica and the USA) attention on this unique USAID/ASCONA program. Furthermore, if the visitors were sufficiently impressed with the goals and activities of ASCONA, they might be motivated to provide assistance for ASCONA fund-raising in the USA. (Consider inviting the President or Executive Director of the US organization and the Editor of its magazine. A feature story about ASCONA could be encouraged).

I. Future OPG Themes

Some suggestions follow for themes of future USAID/CR OPGs

involving ASCONA:

1. Environmental regulatory policy and enforcement. At the present time Costa Rica has a very general and somewhat vague national law which deals with environmental protection. There are, however, no specific regulations for equitable administration of this law, and no clearly established monitoring program or enforcement procedures. ASCONA could undertake a thorough evaluation of the existing weak program, then develop a comprehensive plan by which expert assistance could be provided to the GOCR for the creation of a more meaningful and effective regulatory, monitoring and enforcement program.
2. Development of educational materials. ASCONA is currently taking its environmental/conservation message to only a few selected schools in Costa Rica. This organization could undertake the task of creating appropriate booklets and other educational materials dealing with conservation and environmental quality for use in all schools throughout the country. Hopefully ASCONA and the USAID/CR Mission could persuade the Ministry of Education to include conservation subject matter in the curriculum of all schools in Costa Rica.

APPENDIX A

CRITICAL PATH FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA*

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ABSTRACT

Many Latin American countries are currently promoting the development of industry and exploitation of natural resources in an attempt to improve their economic stability. Regrettably, this development process is inevitably accompanied by environmental contamination. However, most of these countries lack the economic base and trained manpower essential for the implementation of a "corrective" strategy using costly and sophisticated pollution abatement technology. Furthermore, most of these countries lack the public support, governmental motivation, legislation, and regulatory infrastructure needed for effective environmental management.

This paper outlines, in a simplified critical path format, some of the important elements for an environmental management program in developing Latin American countries.

INTRODUCTION

The development of a country generally connotes the growth and expansion of industry, the exploitation of natural resources, and/or the strengthening of economic stability. The merits of development by comparison with its negative consequences could be argued, but in another paper at another time. Most observers would no doubt concur, however, that development elevates the standard of living (at least for a few) and enhances the influence and prestige of

*This paper is based upon experiences gained while serving as a Senior Consultant to UNFESCO on environmental education for engineers in developing countries. This one-year mission (July 1977 through June 1978) included assignments in the Philippines, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Mexico.

a country in its continent, its hemisphere, and even in the world. An excellent illustrative example is the very rapidly developing and influential Latin American country, Venezuela. But seldom are the deleterious impacts of development enumerated or discussed. One inevitable, concomitant aspect of development is the generation of residues which, if left unregulated, can degrade environmental quality and impact the quality of life of all residents of all economic classes.

The so-called developed countries of the world have provided incentives, motivation, capital, expert manpower, and technology to enhance the rate of development of Third World countries, including several in Latin America. It is likely that as severe environmental crises become manifest as a result of development, the developed countries will offer their sophisticated techniques and technologies for pollution abatement. But will the techniques and technologies utilized by industrially developed countries be appropriate or applicable in Latin America? The author believes "no," and discusses the basis for this opinion in subsequent sections of this paper.

The sophisticated, modern "technological approach" is not sensitive nor responsive to the tremendous social, cultural, economic, political, and educational differences which exist between most Latin American countries and a highly developed country like the United States. Yet these non-technological factors must be considered as essential, often critical, ingredients if an environmental management program is to be successful in Latin America.

Prior to discussing environmental management problems and approaches for Latin America, it would be meaningful to first examine the recent history of environmental quality control in the United States and look for possible parallels with situations in Latin America.

THE UNITED STATES EXAMPLE

During and immediately following World War II in the 1940's, the process of economic, resource, and industrial development accelerated rapidly in the United States. A large segment of the American population held as a high priority monetary gain and its associated elevated standard of living. Public concern for environmental quality was not high on the priority list, except for a relatively few far-sighted conservationists. To many, especially those associated with industry, environmental quality control was viewed as an impediment to national growth and development.

But the rapid exploitation of natural resources, the unregulated expansion of industry, and the unplanned growth of urban areas soon resulted, however, in the uncontrolled discharge of vast quantities and types of residues. As a consequence, severe environmental degradation followed closely on the "heels of development" nationwide. The parallel relationship between economic development and environmental contamination is illustrated in Figure 1. By the late 1950's and early 1960's pollution problems in many parts of the country

reached crisis proportions – then the environmental consciousness of the country arose. This sudden change in values and priorities is evidenced by the dramatic increase in membership in the conservation-oriented Sierra Club shown in Figure 1.

Public demand for a clean, liveable environment was clearly heard by voter-sensitive politicians in Washington, D.C. who responded rapidly, though under a cross-fire from industry, to promulgate a variety of pollution control legislation. Figure 1 shows the response of Congress to public opinion and public activism regarding environmental protection. The enormous support of the public also provided the U.S. Government with the motivation and mandate for rigorous enforcement of the new legislation. The ground swell of public opinion obviously was more potent than the powerful industrial lobbies. As a net result of this sequence of events over the past thirty-five to forty years, i.e.,

industrial development → residue production → environmental crises → governmental action ← societal consciousness and demand ←

environmental quality has improved markedly throughout the country.

But consider the question, "What would have happened to the development process in the United States if the rigorous pollution control laws and the costly requirements for pollution abatement of the 1970's had been precipitously imposed upon the weak economy and evolving industry of the 1940's?" The answer to this question could provide an insight into what would likely happen to the development process in Latin America if the rigorous pollution control laws and costly pollution abatement technology of North America were suddenly imposed.

AN APPROACH FOR LATIN AMERICA

In recent years nearly all Latin American countries have sought to more rapidly develop their natural resources, industrial enterprise, and economic base. Progress in the development process has varied widely, ranging from resource-rich Venezuela with a per capita gross national product of \$1166 to economically-depressed Bolivia with a per capita GNP of \$146 [1].¹ Regrettably, however, there is mounting evidence of serious environmental contamination in Latin America, especially in the most rapidly developing countries. For example, the large, freshwater lake, Lake Valencia in Venezuela is seriously contaminated from receiving vast quantities of untreated human and industrial wastes and agricultural runoff. Also the oil-rich floor of Lake Maracaibo has provided a tremendous source of economic wealth to the country, but the exploitation of this resource has had a deleterious impact on water quality.

¹ Both Venezuelan and Bolivian figures represent 1973 values.

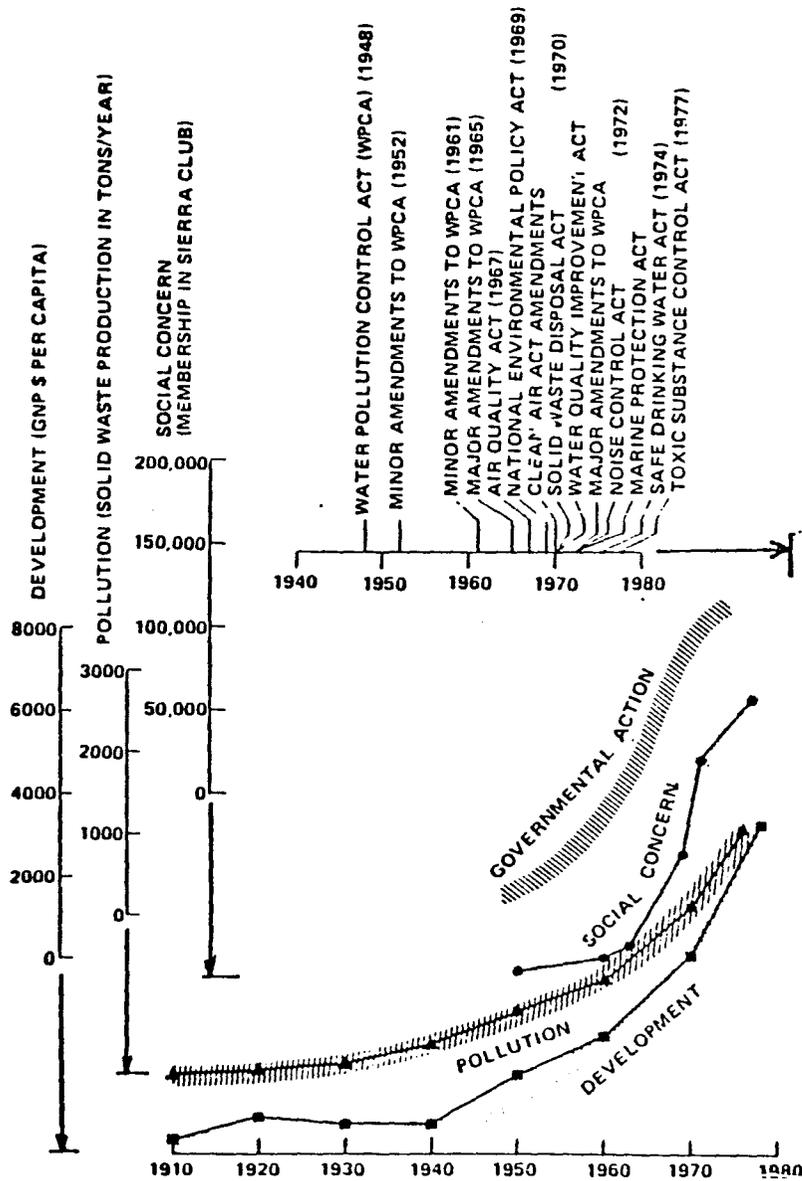


Figure 1. Impact of development on environment paralleled by social and governmental response.

The growing problem of environmental contamination in Latin America cannot and will not, in my opinion, be solved only by the application of costly, sophisticated pollution abatement technologies. Instead, there are numerous, interrelated factors which will require consideration if environmental quality improvement is to be achieved. Several of these factors are shown in "critical path" format in Figure 2. Undoubtedly there are many other factors which could, and perhaps should, be incorporated in the diagram. However, the diagram was purposely simplified to facilitate its application by those who are, or will soon be, involved in environmental management in Latin America.

Values and Priorities

The most basic and perhaps the most important element in environmental management is the concern and support of the people. This implies that the people are aware of and sensitive to environmental quality and how it impacts their quality of life. If a substantial segment of a population has little or no concern for clean air, clean water, an uncluttered landscape, and tranquil surroundings, then environmental quality merits low social priority. Recall that the effectiveness of environmental management in the United States was minimal until the values and priorities of the people were altered in the mid-1960's.

The priority for a clean environment must necessarily be placed below that of the basic necessities of life, namely food, clothing, shelter, health, safety, and security. A person cannot appreciate a clean environment on an empty stomach. Yet in many emerging countries of Latin America, one or more of these basic needs of life are not adequately met for a substantial segment of the population. Malnutrition and public health problems plague many of the countries, even some with relatively high gross national incomes.

The cultural patterns of most Latin American countries are highly complex and varied due to the heterogeneous racial-cultural mixture of national populations. Most countries include essentially three racial-cultural categories:

1. descendants from pre-Columbian Indian stock who maintain the social and cultural ways of their ancestors;
2. caucasian descendants of the Spanish conquerors who often form the highest socio-economic class; and
3. racially-mixed or "mestizo" groups which generally comprise the "working class" segment of the population.

The percentage of the population falling into each category varies widely as shown in Table 1.

Also shown in Table 1 is the average annual per capita income for the countries listed. If this parameter can be accepted as a gross measure of standard of living, it becomes obvious that to a great many people in Latin America, the

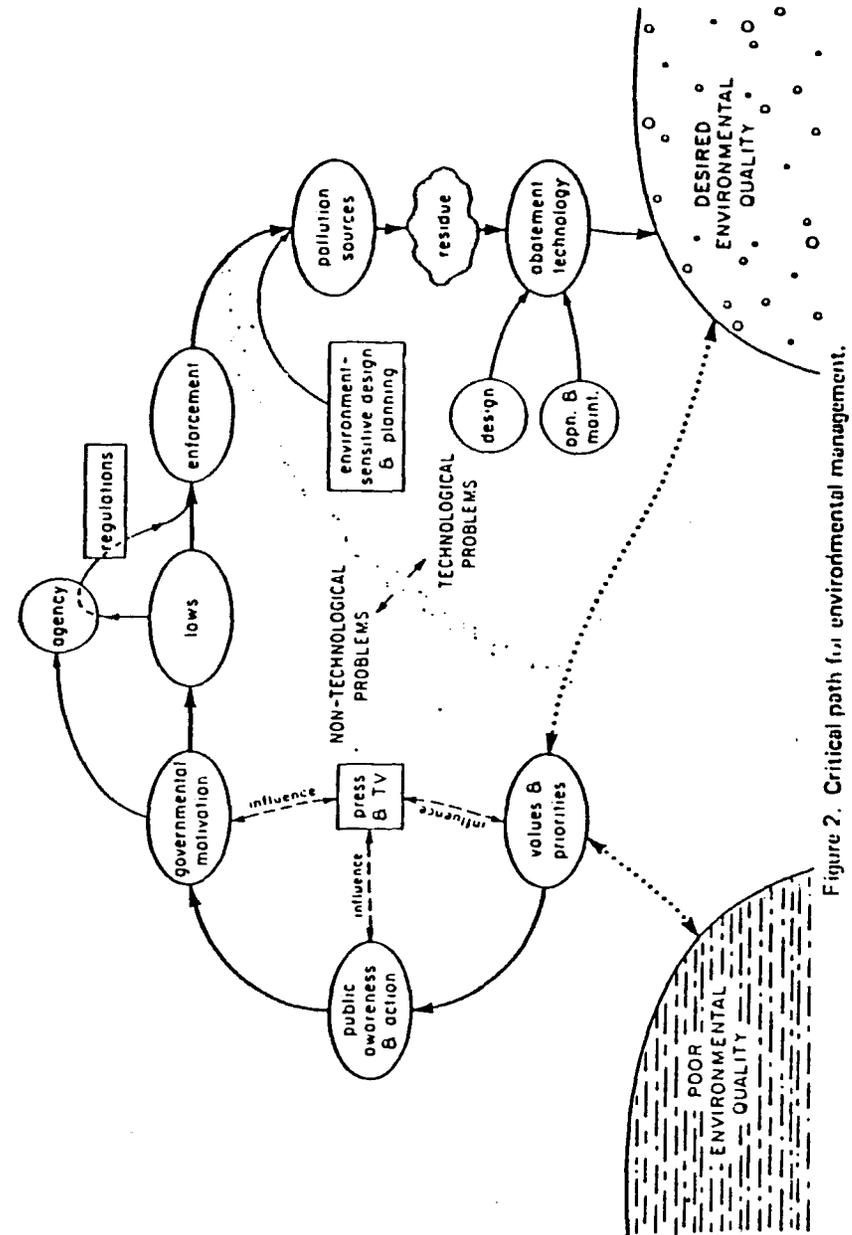


Figure 2. Critical path for environmental management.

Table 1. Racial/Cultural Distribution, Literacy, and Income of Populations in Selected Latin American Countries

| Country | Population ^a (in millions) | Per Cent Population ^b | | | | Literacy Rate ^b % | GNP ^c \$ per capita |
|------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--------|--------------------|-------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | Spanish Decendents | Indian | Mestizo (mixed) | Other | | |
| Costa Rica | 2.1 | 80 | 2 | 17 | 1 | 90 | 623 |
| Ecuador | 7.9 | 10 | 40 | 40 | 10 | 67 | 309 |
| El Salvador | 4.5 | 5 | 3 | 92 | — | 60 | 305 |
| Guatemala ^d | 6.4 | — | 45 | 55 | — | 40 | 387 |
| Honduras | 3.4 | 2 | 10 | 85 | 2 | 50 | 271 |
| Mexico | 66.7 | 10 | 30 | 60 | — | 75 | 753 |
| Nicaragua | 2.4 | 10 | 5 | 75 | 10 | 50 | 463 |
| Panama | 1.9 | 10 | 6 | 68 | 15 | 80 | 839 |
| Venezuela | 13.1 | 20 | 1 | 69 | 10 | 77 | 1166 |

^a Source: (1978 estimates) *World Book Encyclopedia*, 1978.

^b Source: *Middle America — Its Lands and People* by R. L. West and J. P. Augell: 1976, Prentice Hall, Inc.

^c Source: *Selected Economic Data for the Less Developed Countries*, RC-W-136, Agency for International Development, July 1974.

^d In Guatemala, the term "Ladinos" is used to categorize people who follow Spanish-American customs and traditions. Hence a pure blooded Indian who dropped his/her ancestral ways of life would be included.

need for the basic necessities of life would lessen the significance and priority for environmental quality. It should be reemphasized that the "fruits" of development are usually enjoyed by those in the high socio-economic class whereas the disbenefits of development such as environmental contamination affect all socio-economic classes.

Another important socio-cultural factor which must be considered is the general education level of a population. One of the most effective means of influencing public opinion is through a variety of educational media. But this approach requires a reasonably high education level for a population, a condition which does not exist in several Latin American countries. Literacy rates for some countries are shown in Table 1.

Social Awareness and Concern

Social awareness of and concern for environmental quality have not evolved to a significant extent in the developing countries of Latin America. However, the significance and influence of public sentiment, once generated, would vary widely depending upon the socio-political system of a country. By comparison, residents of the United States are able to exert governmental influence through:

1. their substantial contribution as tax payers to governmental income;

2. their vote in free political elections;
3. their freedom of expression; and
4. in other ways.

One or more of these fundamental vehicles of public influence on governmental action are absent in many developing Latin American countries where governments range in type from the functional democracy of Costa Rica to rule by military dictatorship in Peru and presidential whim in Haiti [2]. An interesting and unique situation exists in Venezuela where free elections and freedom of expression are permitted; however, since the government "owns" and directly profits from the development of the abundant natural resources in the country, less than 10 per cent of the government's income is derived from personal income taxes. Hence, the government can assume a more autonomous posture with regard to social problems.

Governmental Motivation

Governmental motivation for seeking a clean, liveable environment can result from a concerned public as described for the United States, or can evolve from internal convictions and moral responsibilities of those within the government itself. Venezuela can once again serve as a good example of the latter type of governmental motivation. In April 1977, the Venezuelan Government created a new ministry for environmental protection. One of the first programs initiated by this new ministry focused on the generation of public awareness and concern for environmental quality. An extensive public education program was begun which included the production of theater and television films, printed literature, and educational materials for school children. There are other examples in Latin America where governments are attempting to educate and motivate the citizenry, rather than the reverse situation.

It appears that in many Latin American countries, the governmental position on environmental protection is more strongly influenced by industrial interests and by the news media (radio, TV, and press) than by public sentiment. Governments of developing countries must confront the onerous dilemma of encouraging industrial activity and resource exploitation while at the same time discouraging environmental contamination.

Governmental motivation and action toward environmental protection might be categorized into two types or degrees. The first is *relatively* simple, inexpensive, and politically expedient. It includes the following elements:

1. promulgation of a national law (and regulations) for environmental protection;
2. creation of an agency or ministry for environmental management;
3. authorization of a study to examine national environmental problems and to recommend solutions; and
4. development of a national plan for environmental quality control.

The second level of action is, by contrast, very difficult and highly expensive. It can be summarized in a single word – IMPLEMENTATION. The national law will have negligible impact and value *unless* it is equitably and rigorously enforced; the agency or ministry will be totally ineffective without authority; the study will serve only as a delaying tactic unless its recommendations are followed; and the plan will be just “window dressing” unless the elements are implemented.

Laws, Regulations and Enforcement Procedures

Environmental legislation and regulations for developing countries should be designed *for* developing countries, i.e., they should reflect national needs, capabilities and limitations. The laws developed by the United States and Western Europe are not appropriate for developing countries in Latin America, hence they should not simply be translated into Spanish for immediate adoption. Persons involved in the preparation of laws and regulations (often foreign consultants) should understand and be sensitive to social, cultural, economic, educational, and political realities in a given developing country.

Laws and regulations for pollution control have little significance without rigorous and equitable enforcement. This element of the critical path may be the most difficult to achieve in Latin America for the following reasons:

1. Effective enforcement requires a substantial pool of qualified manpower and budget for monitoring and surveillance. Most developing countries lack both the manpower and financial resources.
2. The infrastructure for enforcement of pollution control laws is non-existent in many countries. For example, Costa Rica has a very general pollution control law but has yet to develop any specific regulations and enforcement procedures.
3. There appears to be a general public apathy and disregard for laws and law enforcement. Unless this fundamental attitude is dramatically altered, pollution control laws and enforcement, regardless of appropriateness and merit, will be ineffective.

Environment-Sensitive Design and Planning

The application of “corrective” measures such as high-efficiency pollution abatement facilities would likely create an enormous economic burden on developing countries and could significantly deter the development process (which might be argued as beneficial). Perhaps a more feasible approach would be to first attempt the prevention or minimization of pollution through environment-sensitive engineering design and planning of systems, processes, and facilities. Of course such an approach would require special environmental awareness education for engineers and planners together with a responsive government, industrial community, press, and public. Since 1974, UNESCO has supported pilot projects in developing countries around the world, including

Latin America, which focus on the enhancement of environmental awareness among engineering students and practicing engineers. More programs of this type are needed.

Design and Operation of Facilities

Even the most environment-sensitive design of industrial processes or the most effective planning of urban areas will not be sufficient to maintain environmental quality at a liveable level. Residues will always be produced and these must be brought to rest within the physical environment. Hence some pollution abatement facilities will be needed by developing countries; and these must be properly designed, operated, and maintained to be effective. Several Latin American countries have adequate engineering talent to design at least 1. standard types of pollution abatement facilities. However, nearly all countries have a serious shortage of skilled facility operators.

SUMMARY

The data presented in Figure 1 depict the inevitable, concomitant relationship which exists between economic (and resource) development and environmental degradation. Hopefully, countries which are currently in the early stages of development will heed and benefit from the negative example set by highly developed countries and will seek to design plans, programs, processes, systems, and facilities which will minimize the production of environmental contaminants. This “preventative” approach would be much less costly than the implementation of “corrective” measures such as pollution abatement technologies.

Furthermore, as developing countries initiate plans and programs for environmental management, a critical path scheme similar to that shown in Figure 2 should be thoughtfully considered. This diagram reveals the importance of such non-technological considerations as social, cultural, political, and economic factors which exist within the country. Stern environmental laws and sophisticated pollution abatement technologies alone will not provide an appropriate or lasting base for effective environmental management.

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1. Selected Economic Data for the Less Developed Countries, RC-W-136, Agency for International Development, July 1974.
2. G. R. Waggoner and B. A. Waggoner, *Education in Central America*, University of Kansas Press, p. 2, 1971.

Direct reprint requests to:

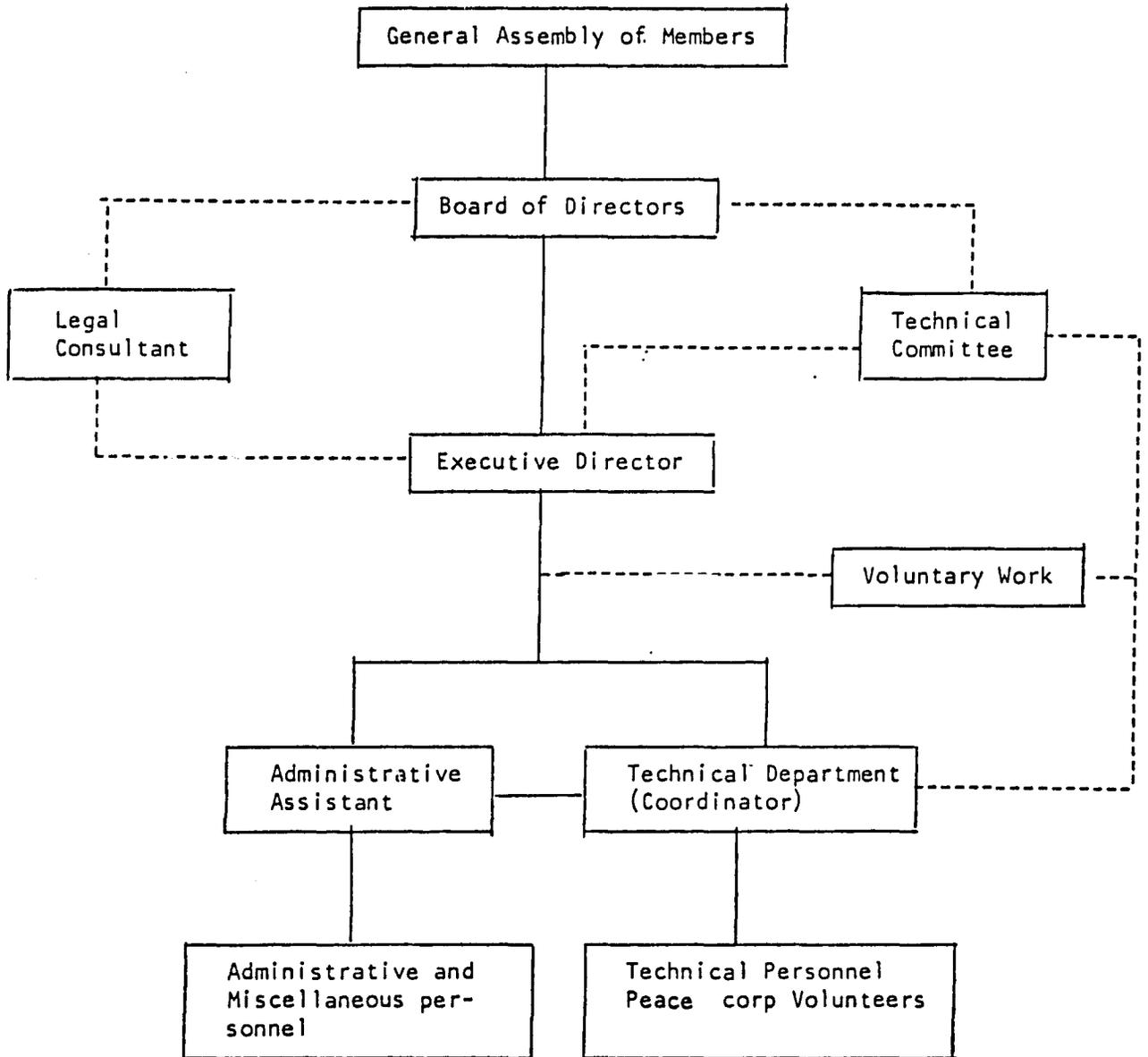
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APPENDIX B

A S C O N A

Costa Rican Association for the Conservation of Nature

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Key:

- | : Hierarchical
- : Subordinates
- - - : Coordination

APPENDIX C

MEMORANDO

Para: Miembros Asociados de ASCONA

De: Ing. Gilberto Ugalde - Director Ejecutivo

Asunto: Breve informe de las principales actividades llevadas a cabo por ASCONA durante los meses de marzo, abril y mayo de 1979.

Fecha: 12 de junio de 1979.

I. DESARROLLO DEL PROGRAMA DE EDUCACION AMBIENTAL

A. Conferencias impartidas:

1. Cuerpo de Ingenieros I.C.E.
2. Colegio de Santa Ana, Séptimos Años.
3. Colegio de Santa Ana, todos los niveles.
4. Colegio San Luis Gonzaga, Cartago.
5. Colegio Vocacional de Heredia.
6. Escuela de Ciencias Ambientales, Universidad Nacional.
7. Escuela de Bellas Artes, Universidad de Costa Rica.
8. Administradores del Servicio de Parques Nacionales.
9. Liceo de Poás.
10. Liceo de San Isidro de Heredia.
11. Profesores del Liceo de Poás.
12. Escuela Carolina Dent en Sagrada Familia.
13. Colegio Nocturno de Tibás.
14. Grupo político de Miguel Barzuna.
15. Grupo de amigos de arquitectos y OFIPLAN.
16. Inspectores de Seguridad Vial.
17. Policía de Alajuela.
18. Colegio Regional de San Joaquín de Flores.
19. Escuela de Ciudad Colón.
20. Oficiales de Migración del Misisterio de Seguridad.
21. Grupo Guías Scout de Costa Rica.
22. Grupo Scouts de Heredia.
23. Maestros y Profesores Escuela Ciencias Ambientales, U.N.A.
24. Asociación de Estudiantes de Geografía, U.C.R.
25. Estudiantes de la Escuela de Agronomía, U.C.R.
26. Grupo Scouts de Guápiles.

II. PUBLICACIONES Y PROGRAMAS AUDIOVISUALES

1. Artículo sobre Parques Nacionales y Reservas Forestales en periódico La Nación.
2. Artículo sobre deforestación en Puriscal en periódico La Prensa Libre.
3. Informaciones sobre aspectos de la problemática ambiental del país en periódico La Nación, Prensa Libre, República, Tico Times.
4. Proyección de película "Cuidemos Nuestro Mundo" en Canal 7, para Día Mundial del Medio Ambiente.
5. Entrevista en "Charlas del Dr. Sosto" sobre aspectos de Parques Nacionales.
6. Editorial en Radio América Latina, en base a publicación realizada el Día Mundial del Medio Ambiente en los medios informativos escritos.
7. Publicación del boletín de ASCONA.
8. Publicación de folletos y artículos para distribución: Alteredación Ambiental y dinámica Global de Adelaida Chaverri, El Impacto Económico de los Parques Nacionales, El Parque Nacio

- nal Braulio Carrillo, La Deforestación en Costa Rica, Costa Rica y su desarrollo ecológico humano, El Parque Nacional Volcán Poás y la Economía Nacional.
9. Revisión General de texto de documentos y exposiciones en programas "Charlas del Dr. Sosto".
 10. Se trabaja en la preparación de un folleto ecológico para niños de pre-escolar, con asesoría de especialistas del M.E.P.
 11. Se trabaja en la preparación de un folleto ecológico para estudiantes de primaria en colaboración con la facultad de Ciencias Biológicas de la Universidad Nacional.
 12. Formación de un banco de diapositivas. Se tienen aproximadamente 250 diapositivas.
 13. Se inició la formación de una mapoteca.
 14. Se inició la formación, clasificación y ordenamiento de la biblioteca, con colaboración de una funcionaria de la Biblioteca Nacional.
 15. Se han confeccionado dos afiches con los siguientes temas: Ciclo Hidrológico, Día Mundial del Medio Ambiente.
 16. Programa Televisión Infantil en Canal 6.

III. COORDINACION CON OTRAS INSTITUCIONES

- A. Se han mantenido comunicación y colaboración con las siguientes instituciones:
 1. Ministerio Educación Pública: Asesores de Colegios Agropecuarios, asesoras de Kinder, Directores de colegios, CEMEC, Profesores y estudiantes en general.
 2. Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería: Pesca y Vida Silvestre, Dirección Forestal, Servicio Parques Nacionales, Distritos Forestales de San Carlos y Puriscal.
 3. Ministerio de Seguridad Pública: Oficiales de Migración Oficiales de Tránsito.
 4. CONICIT: Préstamos de películas.
 5. I.C.T.-I.N.A.: participación en cursos de entrenamiento a personal ligado con el turismo.
 6. OFIPLAN: con Ing. Raigosa para coordinar planes de protección de cuencas hidrográficas.
 7. Instituto de Acueductos y Alcantarillados: convenio para realizar investigaciones de cuencas hidrográficas.
 8. U.N.E.D.: se prepara convenio de cooperación con la Sección de Educación Ambiental.
 9. Universidad de Costa Rica: con el Departamento de Geografía, Escuela de Biología y Escuela de Bellas Artes.
 10. Universidad Nacional: con facultad de Biología, Escuela Ciencias Ambientales.
 11. I.T.C.R.: con el Departamento Forestal.
 12. I.N.S.: futuro programa de Educación Ambiental.
 13. Banco Central: Programas de Educación Ambiental.
 14. C.C.S.S.: Programa de Educación Ambiental.
 15. Embajada Americana: Préstamo de películas.
 16. Con todos los medios informativos escritos.
 17. Grupo de Conservación Tolima de Colombia.
 18. Municipalidad de Puriscal.
 19. Asociación de Scouts de Costa Rica.
 20. Movimiento Nacional de Juventudes.
 21. C.A.T.I.E.: Asesoría en estudio de impacto económico de los Parques Nacionales.
 22. Embajada Real de los Países Bajos: obtención de un técnico.
 23. Cuerpo de paz: ASCONA cuenta actualmente con una voluntaria especialista en biología.
 24. Comisión Nacional de Limpieza: visitas y reunión con

funcionarios de diversas instituciones del país y participación activa en la Campaña Nacional de Limpieza.

IV. FORMACION DE FILIALES

1. En proceso de formación la filial de Puriscal.
2. En proceso de formación la filial de San Carlos.
3. Se elaboró reglamento interno para las filiales de ASCONA.
4. Se elaboró reglamento interno de los Clubes Juveniles.
5. Contactos en Guápiles para la formación de filiales.

V. INVESTIGACIONES

A. Específicas

1. Estudio para protección de la fuente de "La Laja" en San Antonio de Escazú.
2. Investigación y preparación de artículo sobre contaminación por desechos sólidos.
3. Estratos biológicos-ecológicos del macizo del Chirripó. En coordinación con el Departamento de Planeamiento I.C.T.
4. Contaminación de las aguas de los canales de Tortuguero-Moín.

B. Denuncias ante la opinión pública

1. Sobre peligros de la instalación de un muelle de trasiego petrolero en la Bahía de Charco Azul. Consecuencias por derrame de petróleo en la zona.
2. Contaminación provocada por la Compañía Monolítica en el Bajío de la Hondura.
3. Exportación y explotación del Cangrejo Ermitaño (coenobita Compressa).
4. Destrucción del bosque por parte del I.T.C.O. en los Llanos de Cortés en Bagaces.
5. Problemática de la Deforestación en Costa Rica.
6. Se investiga sobre el impacto ambiental que podría provocar el establecimiento de la Cía. Maricultura S.A. en Chomes, para el cultivo del Camarón.

VI. OTROS ASPECTOS DE INTERES

1. Se redactó un borrador de Proyecto de Educación Ambiental para las escuelas de Puriscal, Mora, Santa Ana y Escazú.
2. Se realizó proyecto de concurso en investigación ambiental en los colegios agropecuarios del país. Ya se están distribuyendo y se espera la inscripción de los participantes.
3. Participación en programa de Educación Ambiental a nivel centroamericano, en proyecto financiado por el PNUMA-UNA.
4. Preparación de un cronograma de impartimiento de charlas en escuelas, colegios y otras instituciones.
5. Se realizó y se dió servicio de guía en viaje con asociados al Parque Nacional Volcán Poás.
6. Asesoría en reforestación de la finca del Instituto Agropecuario de Puriscal.
7. Asesoría para instalar un vivero en Liceo de Puriscal.
8. Se ha realizado una intensa campaña de comunicación y hemos tenido reuniones con personas y entidades con el objeto de aumentar la membresía de ASCONA y de obtener fondos para la contrapartida al Convenio con A.I.D. Los resultados han sido en general muy satisfactorios.

APPENDIX D

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Frank Schaumburg - A.I.D.

FORM: Ing. Gilberto Ugalde - ASCONA.

SUBJECT: Information required by you.

DATE: October 22, 1979

1. Specific information about the major seminars, conferences and roundtable meetings which ASCONA has conducted since the OPG began (March/79).

| <u>PLACE</u> | <u>TOPIC</u> | <u>AUDIENCE TYPE</u> | <u>ATTENDANCE</u> |
|--|--|--|--|
| a. Puriscal | Natural Resources, Deforestation, types of pollution and reforestation | Primary and secondary School Teachers, Supervisors. | Over 100 in each session. |
| b. Santa Clara de San Carlos | Seminar on Natural Resources. | Students and teachers of the highest 3 levels of the School. | All the students and most teachers |
| c. University of Costa Rica: several Schools and Departments | Several-dealing with natural resources and Contamination of the environment. | University Students and some professors. | Several Thousands |
| d. Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica. | Ecology and the man. | Students mainly | over 300 |
| e. Universidad Nacional. | Several-Dealing with Natural Resources and the Environment. | University Students mainly | Nearly a thousand in various sessions. |
| f. Factories (several) | Several topics-all dealing with environmental Education. | workers and Supervisors. | Several Hundreds. |
| g. Schools throughout the country | Natural Resources and environmental matters. | Students and interested teachers. | Several thousands. |
| h. Several Government institutions. | Several topics dealing with environmental matters. | Employees of all types including heads of departments. | Between 500 and 700. |

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|----|---|--|--|---------------------|
| i. | Instituto Nacional de Seguros (Auditorium) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The use of Remote sensors in oil contamination. 2. Fish and shrimp culture and the Ecological impact. 3. Contamination by pesticides and biological control. 4. The building of a Pipeline in Costa Rica and its consequences. | Professionals, student and the General Public. | Over 400. |
| j. | Chambers: Commerce, Agriculture, Coffee Growers Industries. | Natural resources and environmental pollution. | Members of such organizations. | Over 200. |
| k. | Municipal Buildings and Gyms. | Several dealing with Natural Resources and the environment. | Municipal Board, Students, Professionals and the General Public. | Over two thousands. |
| l. | Churches and other public building. | Several dealing with natural resources and pollution. | The General Public and Groups interested in these type of matters. | Aproximately 1.000. |

2. Specific information on investigations (during June - July - August - September).

| <u>PLACE</u> | <u>TOPIC</u> | <u>FOR (CLIENT)</u> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Pozos-Puriscal | Water Contamination | Municipal Government |
| 2. San Rafael-Puriscal | Water Contamination | Municipal Government |
| 3. Tambor - Alajuela | Forest Disease (Pine) | Vieto y Asociados |
| 4. Liberia - Guanacaste | Water Contamination | Conservation Group. |
| 5. Ciudad Quesada - San Carlos | Water Contamination | ASCONA Affiliate |
| 6. Ciudad Quesada - San Carlos | Waste Disposal | ASCONA Affiliate |
| 7. Ciudad Quesada - San Carlos | Study to create Forestry Reserve. | ASCONA Affiliate |
| 8. Alajuelita - San José | Study to create Forestry Reserve. | Municipality of Escazú. |
| 9. Mercedes Sur - Puriscal. | Study to create Forestry Reserve. | ASCONA Affiliate |

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|-----|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 10. | Chomes - Puntarenas | Ecological Impact | Conservation Group |
| 11. | Pacific Coast - Puntarenas | Oil Contamination | Congress Commission |
| 12. | Garita - Alajuela | Several Aspect in Zoo. | Presidential House |
| 13. | Bagaces - Guanacaste. | Economic, Social and Ecological implications on area to be developed by Agrarian Institute. | A group of ASCONA Associates. |
| 14. | San José | Solid waste Disposal | Comisión Nacional de Limpieza. |
| 15. | San José | Environmental Topics: to review bibliography and other materials in order to be published in ASCONA. | ASCONA, Head Office. |
3. The agricultural highschool that asked ASCONA assistance in developing a conservation course was Colegio Agropecuario de Santa Clara in San Carlos. They are planning to include in their curriculum for next year, a course in Environmental education.