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PD-AAH-237

CLASSIFICATION
PROJECT EVALUATION SUMMARY (PES) - PART I

Report Symbol U-447

1. PROJECT TITLE Fish Culture Extension Project Central African Republic		2. PROJECT NUMBER 676-0004	3. MISSION/AID/W OFFICE USAID/Yaounde
		4. EVALUATION NUMBER (Enter the number maintained by the reporting unit e.g., Country or AID/W Administrative Code, Fiscal Year, Serial No. beginning with No. 1 each FY) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR EVALUATION <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL EVALUATION	

5. KEY PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION DATES			6. ESTIMATED PROJECT FUNDING A. Total. \$ <u>149,000</u> B. U.S. \$ <u>118,000</u>	7. PERIOD COVERED BY EVALUATION From (month/yr.) <u>1975</u> To (month/yr.) <u>9/1979</u>	
A. First PRO-AG or Equivalent FY <u>77</u>	B. Final Obligation Expected FY <u>77</u>	C. Final Input Delivery FY <u>79</u>		Date of Evaluation Review <u>2/22/80</u>	

8. ACTION DECISIONS APPROVED BY MISSION OR AID/W OFFICE DIRECTOR

A. List decisions and/or unresolved issues; cite those items needing further study. (NOTE: Mission decisions which anticipate AID/W or regional office action should specify type of document, e.g., airgram, SPAR, PIO, which will present detailed request.)	B. NAME OF OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION	C. DATE ACTION TO BE COMPLETED
1. USAID/Y recommends approval of PC/Embassy Bangui application for \$50,000 in interim funding from the IRT regional project in cable summarizing funding and evaluation.	R. H. Goldman USAID/Yaounde	3/80
2. Required: Decision to fund IRT fisheries project.	AFR/RA	3/80

9. INVENTORY OF DOCUMENTS TO BE REVISED PER ABOVE DECISIONS

<input type="checkbox"/> Project Paper	<input type="checkbox"/> Implementation Plan e.g., CPI Network	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>NONE</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> PIO/T	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Logical Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> PIO/C	
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/> PIO/P	

10. ALTERNATIVE DECISIONS ON FUTURE OF PROJECT

NA

A. Continue Project Without Change

B. Change Project Design and/or Change Implementation Plan

C. Discontinue Project

11. PROJECT OFFICER AND HOST COUNTRY OR OTHER RANKING PARTICIPANTS AS APPROPRIATE (Names and Titles)

J. B. Woods, Program Officer
Peace Corps, Bangui
R. H. Goldman, Project Manager
T. E. Bratrud, Evaluation Officer

12. Mission/AID/W Office Director Approval

Signature *James E. Williams*

Typed Name James E. Williams

Date 3/6/80

Clearances: ARD.ENWitt MBW PRM:JBWoods TBM DPRM:TEBratrud TJ

PROJECT EVALUATION SUMMARY (PES) - PART II

13. Summary.

The project under evaluation is a Peace Corps run and managed inland fish culture project. The project had the objectives of expanding the existing network of fish stations, improving the extension effort and promulgating inland fish culture among central African farmers.

Under rather trying circumstances, the project has basically attained the original project production and beneficiary targets. Total project cost financed by A.I.D. was \$118,000 with technical assistance provided by Peace Corps volunteers and staff.

Our past contact with project staff has led us to believe that this project was the beneficiary of an exceptional group of individuals and that this fact obviously resulted in the project's relative success.

GOCAR support to this project has been minimal -- not surprising given the country's economic problems and past government abuses. We doubt whether this support will improve dramatically in the future, but, minimal support for this type of activity appears all that is necessary. One of the project goals was to produce a fish farmer who is relatively self-sufficient and to encourage farmers to produce fingerlings for sale rather than having to rely on station production and sale of fingerlings.

We believe that the project can be viewed as one where the objectives have largely been achieved and where Peace Corps/A.I.D. collaboration has worked. We support, as substantiated by this report, the extension of this program via financial assistance from the A.I.D. AFR/RA Improved Rural Technology Project.

14. Evaluation Methodology.

This evaluation is a combination of a desk review of the project documents and past data collection/project monitoring activities combined with an abbreviated site inspection by a USAID/Y Officer (see item 23). As it turns out, this evaluation is the post project evaluation as the project was terminated by administrative fiat as a result of the human rights record of the Bokassa regime. Emperor Bokassa has been overthrown and AID would like to renew its participation in development activities in the Central African Republic. AID/W project review is expected to determine the feasibility of supporting GOCAR and Peace Corps Fisheries activities as proposed in the recent Improved Rural Technology project proposal submission. Annexes One and Two contain the data base upon which this evaluation is based and aggregates available statistics gathered over the last four years of project implementation.

15. External Factors.

The state of the Central African economy has limited the financial and in-kind contributions of the GOCAR from what it might have been under other circumstances. This has not proven unduly detrimental to the project and has been largely overcome by the participation of Peace Corps and the general low level of technology originally designed into the project. Volunteers have had counterparts assigned to them and the Department of Fisheries has always actively supported the project. As can be seen from the available statistics, inland fisheries have been accepted by the local population.

16. Inputs.

All project inputs by Peace Corps, GOCAR and USAID were supplied as planned with the exception of a GOCAR contribution of \$6,000 worth of fuel. Certain A.I.D. financed project commodities did not arrive on time, but at the completion of the project all had been received. Looking at a map of Africa, one can easily imagine the potential for logistic confusion that exists. It is a credit to the ingenuity of the Bangui Peace Corps office and the Embassy that project commodities arrived at all.

According to USAID/Y records the project pipeline as of 31 December 1979 was \$1,000.

17./18. Purpose.

"(A) To augment the amount of protein available to the rural population. The proposed project expansion will increase fingerling production from 2,000 to 10,000 per month, the number of stations from five to nine, and the number of recipient farmers from 400 to 2,800. The PCV's and CAR counterparts will also instruct rural farmers in management techniques so that fish raising activities can continue at the end of the project.

(B) To develop within the Ministry of Water and Forestry sufficient numbers of fish stations and extension personnel to continue the program after departure of the volunteers. The project proposes a 3-week traveling seminar to train new personnel in station management and extension techniques.

The principal thrust of this program is the establishment of a self-sustaining system placing first priority on the training of farmers to function, if necessary, without the assistance of government extension agents. Notwithstanding, the proposal also provides for the training of government extension agents. It is expected that such training will enhance the existing fish pond culture activity while providing the basis for further expansion."

Annex I and Annex II respectively show the data relating to the extension program and to fish station development. The project target of 2,800 recipient farmers has not been reached, though given the local political system and the capacity of USAID administrative support (i.e. no resident project manager) this is not surprising. The statistics reveal that 1,835 ponds were in production by 1,451 farmers who harvested 29,391 kg. of fish over the project life. Given the environment in which these activities took place, we conclude that project output was more than acceptable. The data also show that ten stations are/were in operation exceeding the targeted number of stations and that 163,700 fingerlings were stocked over the past five or so years. While fingerling production had not reached 10,000 per month, it is reported that many farmers are now producing their own fingerlings.

20. Beneficiaries --

The direct project beneficiaries are the 1,451 farmers who participate in the fish culture program and their families and neighbors who consume their production. Given the scope of this evaluation one cannot comment on the qualitative or nutritional impact of this project on the rural

population. Rural Central Africans have a nutritional status which appears to be substantially below many other West and Central African countries. During recent visits to CAR by USAID/Y staff, clinical signs of malnutrition were readily observed in the villages and towns. As such, we assume that any incremental increases in calories and protein were well utilized.

GOCAR staff also benefitted from the on-the-job training and material support available through the project. Some employment generation resulted from station construction activities and improved management practices.

21. Unplanned Effects. No unplanned effects are noted.

22. Lessons Learned.

Several lessons have been learned as a result of this project. One is that logistic problems including procurement and transportation are extremely difficult in the CAR and that design of new activities should give more than the usual degree of planning/programming attention to this subject. Two, government support is apt to be minimal for several years to come. Not necessarily as a consequence or manifestation of indifference, but simply as a consequence of the prevailing economic situation. Therefore, our projects should be of either top government priority (infrastructure) where they might be assured of GOCAR and/or other donor support, or they should be of the type that is basically self-sustaining or that can be managed independently by Peace Corps or a PVO/NGO.

Finally, not withstanding the above points, we recommend that A.I.D. (AFR/RA) finance a continuation of the Peace Corps/GOCAR fisheries program as a low cost/positive impact program.

23. Special Comments.

John B. Woods, USAID/Y Program Officer, visited the M'Baiki station before A.I.D. assistance was provided and at the termination of the project. During both visits it was apparent the station was well kept and functioning smoothly. During the life of the project the central African station manager had been assisted by several Peace Corps Volunteers.

The grass was well trimmed, dikes and monks were in good condition and improvements to the main channel were evident. The station is solely managed by a moniteur of the Ministry of Water and Forests who lives on the station with his family. The station manager has been supervising the operation of the station without the assistance of a Peace Corps Volunteer for about six months. He is now fully responsible for the operation of the station and oversees the production of fingerlings. From the funds generated by the sale of fingerlings the station manager hires all the necessary labor, and buys materials for the station's operation. He receives little financial support from his Ministry. In addition to his responsibilities as station chief, the moniteur is responsible for providing small farmers in the surrounding area with information on small pond fish production. To this end the moniteur has at his disposition one mobylette whose operational costs must be met out of station

revenues. The mobylette very much limits the potential range of the moniteur's extension efforts as it is too light a vehicle to have much of a life over the poor CAR country roads and trails and its carrying capacity is very limited. There is little hope that the Ministry will be able to provide the moniteur with a replacement of mobylette when the present one is worn out. What is required is a more powerful and heavier motorcycle such as a Yamaha 125 cc. Endura. Given the moniteur's lack of mobility it is difficult to see how he can carry on an extensive effort. However, at this point, it looks as if he is capable of holding the station together and doing some limited extension work with farmers close to the station.

After visiting the station Mr. Woods had the opportunity to see some farmer ponds.

While the station is well situated in terms of its water supply, soil permeability, the farmers of the surrounding areas are not the most progressive, energetic or enterprising when compared to other Central Africans.

The ponds which I saw were in somewhat neglected condition because of the demands of the coffee harvest which have a higher priority for the farmers. The moniteur was sure that the ponds' condition would be restored once the coffee harvest was finished and the farmers had more time.

The M'Baiki station plays a very important role in the training of Peace

Corps Volunteers as it is located near the University agriculture school, where each new group of PCV's is trained. It provides the Volunteers with a good facility to use as well as giving them access to the problems of extension.

In sum, Mr. Woods' overall impression was that the station was reasonably well managed and had a good chance of continuing without Peace Corps assistance. However, the extension services the station could offer were limited by lack of adequate transportation to meet the small farmers' need for fingerlings and information. These limited services would, of course, be further reduced if the mobylette is not replaced.

ANNEX I

(1)

EXTENSION PROGRAM - SUMMARY

Post start date)	Ponds in Production					No. Fish Farmers					No. Ponds Harvested				
	'75	'76	'77	'78	9/79	'75	'76	'77	'78	9/79	'75	'76	'77	'78	9/79
DA (74)	95	150	251	374	430	90	140	200	333	368	35	91	187	182	162
BAIKI (74)	63	105	152	110	82	63	75	100	70	65	23	27	157	100	47
SSEMBELE/ LOKE (74)	75	118	150	168	206	75	110	129	139	170	4	56	98	114	138
OCARANGA (74)	66	139	188	236	250	53	122	111	109	120	1	49	77	137	148
IMARI (74)	54	92	104	118	129	48	72	75	88	97	7	39	79	69	39
RBERATI (76)	—	20	70	344	356	—	20	70	263	269	—	5	48	135	90
OGANANGONE (77)	—	—	20	124	188	—	—	20	116	177	—	—	4	56	74
ZOUM (77)	—	—	24	15	25	—	—	22	15	25	—	—	2	4	19
NGASSOU (77)	—	—	—	32	82	—	—	—	32	75	—	—	—	4	43
EMBE (77)	—	—	12	43	57	—	—	11	42	55	—	—	—	34	20
AKOA (78)	—	—	—	—	30	—	—	—	—	30	—	—	—	—	11
Early Totals	353	624	971	1564	1835	329	539	738	1207	1451	70	267	652	835	791
umul. Totals		1,835 ponds					1,451 farmers					2,615 ponds harvested			

Note: Many ponds are harvested more than once a year.

EXTENSION PROGRAM - SUMMARY

Post (start date)	Total Weight (KG)					Average Production (kg/are/yr)					Cumul. Total (K) 1975 - 9/79
	'75	'76	'77	'78	9/79	'75	'76	'77	'78	9/79	
BODA (74)	186	800	2810	3050	2640	13.6	13.2	22.6	23.5	21.2	9,486
MIBAIKI (74)	140	300	990	880	340	11.0	11.3	16.4	17.7	19.0	2,050
BOSSEMBELE/ YALOKÉ (74)	40	450	790	1790	1600	11.5	15.5	13.5	12.3	11.9	4,670
BOCARABGA (74)	2	365	775	1200	1275	6.0	13.2	13.8	15.7	17.7	3,617
GRIMARI (74)	27	290	510	470	260	5.6	12.6	10.2	13.1	7.4	1,557
BERBERATI (76)	--	5	110	1955	2035	--	4.0	5.5	8.7	11.5	4,115
BOGANANGONE (77)	--	--	30	695	1168	--	--	20.5	21.5	23.7	1,893
BOZOUN (77)	--	--	25	140	388	--	--	12.2	34.6	24.6	550
BANGASSOU (77)	--	--	--	70	510	--	--	--	36.5	20.7	580
KEMBE (77)	--	--	--	75	80	--	--	--	8.4	7.8	155
DEKOA (78)	--	--	--	--	115	--	--	--	--	11.1	115
Yearly Totals	395	2210	6040	10335	10411	11.7	13.2	15.9	16.1	17.3	20,391
Cumul. Totals			29,391 KG								

Note: Figures give the status at the end of the calendar year at the top of the column, except for 1979 only goes up to and including September.

TABLE I FISHERIES STATIONS - SUMMARY

Post (start date)	Total Production (1)(KG)					Cumul (KG) Total 1975 - 9/79
	175	176	177	178	9/79	
Boda (174)	00	20	175	75	125	455
M'Baiki (174)	310	390	1205	510	745	3,400
Bessembele (174)	103	322	344	327	210	1,390
Bocaranga (3)(174)	136	145	105	322	335	1,043
Grinari SPA (4)(174)	55	55	75	60	23	268
Grinari S. Pref. (176)	—	43	57	81	93	274
BOganangone (177)	—	—	—	365	214	579
Kembe (178)	—	—	—	16	10	26
Boroum (5) (178)	—	—	—	—	—	0
Bangassou (6)(177)	—	—	—	10	—	10
Yearly Totals	754	975	1961	2006	1755	
Cumul Totals			7,511 KG			7,511 KG

- (5) An old French station was found in September 1978 and is being renovated. Total surface area is 44 ares.
- (6) The station was flooded out soon after renovation in June 1978. A new one was built at a new site with funds from USAID and the Peace Corps Development Funds. It has 8 ponds totaling 7.3 ares, completed in September 1979.