

FORESTRY PROGRESS REPORT



PEACE CORPS
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 1980, the Office of Programming and Training Coordination (OPTC) in Peace Corps and the Bureau for Science and Technology (formerly the Development Support Bureau in USAID) signed a Participating Agency Service Agreement (PASA) entitled "Forest Resources Management," (Project Number 936-5519). The joint PC/AID Forest Resources Initiative is designed to improve the capability of both AID and PC to design, implement and evaluate community-based forestry/natural resource projects as well as to improve AID and PC collaborative efforts in the field.

Through the first twelve months, the Office of Programming and Training Coordination, working in conjunction with AID and Peace Corps regional offices and AID/SNT, has accomplished the following:

- o Assessments of existing or potential forestry/natural resource projects in 25 countries around the world have been completed. This process included interviewing PC and AID country staff, as well as appropriate Peace Corps and AID Washington officials, host country officials, PVOs and NGOs when present, and field visits to AID and Peace Corps natural resource projects. Each country assessment was conducted by two professionals who spent on the average of ten (10) days in each country. Country assessments reports were prepared by the assessors for each country assessed (see Appendix A).

- o A staff forestry programming workshop for representatives from eight (8) Latin American and Caribbean countries was held in June in San Jose, Costa Rica. Over 45 participants from PC, AID and host country ministries and private volunteer organizations (PVOs) participated. (See Appendix B).

The Workshop addressed how PC, AID, host country ministries and PVOs can most effectively utilize joint resources in designing and implementing forestry/natural resource projects. A four month evaluation of the material presented illustrates the benefits derived from such training (see Appendix C).

- o The design for a technical forestry in-country pre-service training program for new Peace Corps Volunteers was completed. Developed by a team of professional trainers and technical foresters with strong international experience, the training design addresses both technical forestry and community development issues. The pre-service training model will be implemented in Ecuador (November 9 - December 11) and will serve as a model for similar training sessions throughout the Inter-American Region.
- o Administrative/logistical plans and workshop design were developed for a Far East/Pacific region staff forestry programming workshop to be held in November, in the Philippines. Similar to the Latin American workshop, the

goal is to improve the design and implementation of forestry/natural resource projects. PC, AID and host country agency staffs from eight countries have been invited with over 25 participants already confirmed.

- o Technical Programming Consultants were made available to those country directors and staffs requesting technical assistance in the identification, design, training component(s) and evaluation of a forestry project.
- o Provided Peace Corps regional staffs, country staffs and natural resource volunteers with technical advice in forestry, natural resources and environmental education.
- o Increased relationships and awareness with PVOs, NGOs, universities, and other agencies and organizations working in the forestry and natural resource field.
- o Presentation (paper and slides) about Peace Corps Forestry programming at Society of American Foresters Annual (National) Convention, September 28 - 30, in Orlando, Florida and meeting of Forestry College/University Deans.

UPCOMING FY '82
PC/AID FORESTRY PASA ACTIVITIES

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Projected Dates</u>
1. Inter America Regional Technical Forestry In-Country Pre-Service Training for 28 PCTs (Conocoto, Ecuador)	December
2. Far East/Pacific Region (NANEAP) Forestry Programming Workshop (Philippines)	November - December
3. Pilot Projects Selection for Inter America Region	January
4. Programming Consultants to NANEAP Field Areas	January - February
5. Pilot Project Selection for NANEAP Region	February
6. Series (1-3) of Forestry Programming Workshops for Africa Region	February - March
7. Programming Consultants to Africa Field Areas	February - April
8. Pilot Project Selection for Africa Region	March
9. In-Country In-Service Training Model for PCVs and Counterparts	April
10. Africa Regional Technical Forestry Stateside Pre-Service Training for 20 PCVs	August - September

I. HISTORY

In September 1980, AID through the Bureau for Science and Technology, Office of Forestry, Environment and Natural Resources, formerly the Office of Science and Technology, Development Support Bureau and the Office of Programming and Training Coordination of Peace Corps signed a Participating Agency Service Agreement in the area of forest resource management. This joint project between AID/PC is funded under a Participating Agency Service Agreement (PASA) entitled "Forest Resources Management", Project Number 936-5519. The Peace Corps component of the PASA includes funding of \$1,200,000 for the four year period, FY '80 - FY '83.

Major efforts got underway in December of 1980 following the employment of Mr. Jay Tuttle, forestry coordinator, and Mr. Julius Weeks, Administrative Assistant under the direction of George Mahaffey, program manager.

II. GOALS OF THE PC/AID FOREST RESOURCES PROJECT

The Purpose of this initiative is to build upon the differing but complimentary strengths of the two agencies in an effort to deliver grassroots village level forestry assistance. This assistance is intended to reduce forest and related natural resource deterioration in LDC's which threatens basic needs of the rural poor and increase sustainable use of forest resources to meet those needs.

AID supplies professional technical programming and backstopping expertise on a consulting basis to develop collaborative forestry projects in six pilot AID/PC countries. Peace Corps recruits, trains and places Peace Corps forestry volunteers in AID collaborative project settings, while AID supplies funds for technical backup and support, counterpart training, material support (transportation, nursery supplies, etc.) programming assistance and pre- and in-service training model development.

This action responds directly to the specific "resource needs" that have been expressed by the Peace Corps in its "Forestry Initiative" paper. Simultaneously, the collaborative efforts provide AID with a significant opportunity to extend its own efforts at the grassroots level.

Both agencies benefit from this joint forestry initiative. In particular, this collaborative effort enables both AID and Peace Corps to:

1. gain new insights from planned assessments of existing projects about the kinds of planning and implementation approaches, resource mixes and community interactions which promote or impede the accomplishment of desired project goals.
2. build the capability of their respective field organizations to better plan, both jointly and separately, community-level

forestry and natural resource projects, and the ability of headquarter offices to derive technical findings and materials, project models, training techniques, and other aspects of experience with new projects, which can in turn enrich overall guidance and assistance available to the field.

The PC/AID Forestry Resources Management PASA includes four broad activities (assessments, programming, training, and material support):

ASSESSMENTS: Conduct assessments of existing or potential forestry projects to; (a) examine the potential for expansion or the establishment of new collaborative forestry projects in PC/AID countries.

PROGRAMMING: Provides staff training programming workshops for overseas PC and AID staff and appropriate HCA officials to build forestry programming skills, identify new programming potentials and develop action plans for new or revised programming efforts in forestry/natural resources with AID/Host Country Agencies (HCA). Additionally, in-country program assistance is available to countries represented at the workshop that demonstrate a need to strengthen existing or new forestry initiatives.

TRAINING: Develop regional training models and manuals for PC pre-service and in-service technical forestry training. These models and manuals are designed and implemented, respectively, by professional trainers and foresters. Peace Corps volunteers and their counterparts will participate and train simultaneously. These training sessions are held in-country and within the United States.

PILOT PROJECTS/MATERIAL SUPPORT: Establish 3 - 6 new or expanded forestry projects, 2 in each region - Inter-America, Africa, Far East/Pacific. These projects utilize PC personnel resources, AID material and financial support and HCA material and personnel contributions with additional input and support from PCVs and NGOs.

III. PEACE CORPS FORESTRY/NATURAL RESOURCES STAFF

To implement the activities specified in the Forestry Resources Management PASA, Peace Corps employs two full-time permanent and two full time temporary professionals in the forestry sector in the Office of Programming and Training Coordination.

George Mahaffey, Project Manager, is on detail to the PC from the National Park Service. Mr. Mahaffey is an experienced administrator and natural resource specialist, having worked in a broad range of managerial and natural resource positions while at

the National Park Service. Now in his third year on detail to the PC, Mr. Mahaffey has conducted site visits to a number of PC and AID projects in Africa and Latin America/Caribbean region in addition to his management and supervisory responsibilities.

Robert Kornegay, Forest Technical Specialist, is on detail to the Peace Corp from the US Forest Service (USFS). Mr. Kornegay has worked extensively in forestry and watershed management projects in Kenya, Iraq and Jamaica through contracts with USAID and FAO. He joined PC in August 1981 and will assist in implementing technical forestry in-service training sessions and provide technical support to PCVs in the field.

Mr. James Patric, who preceded Mr. Kornegay, was on detail to the Peace Corps from the USFS. Mr. Patric, a senior forestry and research specialist, assisted Peace Corps in expanding its recruitment efforts in the area of forestry and watershed management as well as providing technical support to PCVs in the field.

Jay Tuttle, Resource Management Coordinator, is responsible for implementing PASA activities. A former PCV in Asia and South America, Mr. Tuttle has a Master's degree in Forestry/Natural Resources Management from Syracuse University. His specific duties include designing, implementing and evaluating the staff programming workshops and assisting the development of all other PASA activities. Jay speaks very good Spanish, good Persian and some French.

Julius Weeks, Administrative Assistant, provides administrative support for all support activities associated with the PASA. Raised in both the US and Liberia, Julius has a degree in Animal Science from Purdue University and rural development work experience in Liberia. He is knowledgeable about international development issues. Mr. Weeks is responsible for implementing administrative logistics involved in conducting country assessments, programming workshops and training sessions. Mr. Weeks speaks excellent French and West African Pigen English

IV. MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS (FY '81)

1. COUNTRY ASSESSMENTS

The first step in implementing the series of activities called for in the Forest Resources Management PASA was to conduct assessments of existing or potential forestry/natural resource projects. Twenty-five countries; seven (7) in Latin America/Caribbean, 13 in Africa, and 5 in the Far East/Pacific, were assessed, each by a team of professional foresters/resource managers. The goals of the country assessments were to:

- A. Directly inform overseas PC and AID staff about the PASA, the specific activities planned, and the proposed time-frame.
- B. Enable overseas PC and AID staff to provide specific input on how future PASA activities should be designed/implemented and what specific issues should be addressed.
- C. Provide PC/Washington and AID/Washington with current information on the status of existing forestry/natural resource projects around the world, common strengths/weaknesses that existed, institution capacities, and potential methods of both improving these efforts and promoting greater collaboration among the various parties involved.
- D. Stimulate discussions between PC/AID staff, host country ministry officials and PVO representatives concerning new or revised forestry/natural resource projects.

The goals of the assessment process were achieved to a very high degree in nearly every country. A major reason for the success was the method used in selecting the assessment team members. In order for the individuals to visit a country for 8 - 10 days, and to accurately convey and obtain information on a variety of issues, a broad range of skills are required. A two-day intensive group interview process was used to select candidates who demonstrated strong technical, interpersonal, cross-cultural, language, writing and team building skills. Peace Corps funded assessors and countries assessed are shown in Table 1.

A written report was prepared for each country assessed. These reports document the potential for PC/AID collaborative forestry projects. More specifically, the reports discuss the following topics.

- o Host country government priorities and ministry/department experience in forestry/natural resource programs, and the potential for future development efforts with PC, AID, and other donor agencies; HCA skills needed for PCVs in forestry/natural resources projects and HCA attitude toward increased counterpart training.

- o Peace Corps past/current/projected efforts in forestry/natural resources projects, past/current collaborative efforts with AID and other donor agencies (PVOs). PC perception of potential for collaboration with AID in forestry/natural resources projects, PC use of and attitude toward skill-trained volunteers, and PC suggestions for staff programming workshop and pre- and in-service PCV training modules (including PCV counterparts).
- o AID past/current/future efforts in forestry/natural resource projects past/current collaborative efforts with Peace Corps and PVOs; AID perception of potential for increased collaboration with PC in forestry/natural resource projects, AID attitude toward skill-trained PCVs; and AID suggestions for staff programming workshops and pre- and in-service PCV training modules (including PCV counterparts).

These reports are being distributed to the PC, AID and appropriate ministry officials in the assessed countries, to AID Washington staff and to the International Offices of the National Park Service and the US Forest Service. (See Appendix A).

TABLE 1
PEACE CORPS FORESTRY ASSESSMENT FUNDED CONSULTANTS 1/

INTER-AMERICA 1/

<u>ASSESSORS</u>	<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>STATION</u>	<u>DATES</u>
Shores, J.	Honduras, Guatemala	U. of Michigan	1/6-1/31/81
Birdsey, R.	Honduras, Guatemala	USFS (Detail)	1/6-1/31/81
Burchfield, J	Ecuador, Jamaica Dominican Republic	USFS (Detail)	1/5-2/7/81
Donovan, R.	Ecuador, Jamaica Dominican Republic	Assoc. In Rural Development	1/5-2/7/81
Shores, J.	Costa Rica, Paraguay	U. of Michigan	2/23-3/27/81
Cross, B.	Costa Rica, Paraguay	U. of Michigan	2/23-3/27/81

AFRICA

Blade, A.	Tunisia, Morocco Benin 1/	U. of W. Indies	3/25-4/3/81
Gibbs, A.	Tunisia, Morocco Benin 1/	Dept. of Interior BLM (Detail)	3/25-4/3/81
Fickes, J.	Liberia, Zaire Senegal	U. of Georgia	2/19-4/6/81
Conway, F. Dr.	Liberia, Zaire Senegal	Consultant	2/19-4/6/81
Conway, F. Dr.	Mali 1/, Upper Volta Niger, Mauritania	Consultant	4/20-6/15/81
Blade, A.	Niger, Mauritania Mali 1/, Upper Volta	U. of W. Indies	4/20-6/15/81
Heinz, D.	Botswana, Kenya Tanzania	USFS (Detail)	2/23-4/8/81
Davis, M.	Botswana, Kenya	USFS (Detail)	2/23-4/8/81

FAR EAST/PACIFIC

Todd, S.	Philippines, Fiji W. Samoa, Solomon Is. Tonga	U. of Michigan	5/5-6/30/81
Reynolds, D.	Tonga, W. Samoa, Philippines, Fiji Solomon Islands	National Park Service (Detail) Dept. of Interior	5/5-6/30/81 5/5-6/30/81

1/ NOTE: Consultant assessment reports completed and available upon request.

2. PROGRAMMING ASSISTANCE

Accurate planning and design of development projects in forestry/natural resources is crucial to success. Identifying the social and technical factors that will strongly influence a project, locating appropriate material and human resources and coordinating the efforts of all parties involved are difficult but necessary tasks that must be undertaken if a project is to achieve its goals. Two forms of programming assistance were provided to overseas PC and AID staff and HCA officials and PVOs to strengthen the programming process by addressing the tasks mentioned above.

The first type of programming assistance is a staff training forestry programming workshop, the first of which was held in San Jose, Costa Rica from June 20 - 27, 1981. Eight countries from Central and South America and the Caribbean were represented by more than 45 PC, AID and HCA staff, all of whom are directly responsible for forestry/natural resource projects in their respective countries. The goals of the workshop were to:

1. facilitate the development of forestry projects in Central and South America and the collaboration of PC, AID and HCA in such projects;
2. improve PC, AID and HCA staff capability to design, implement, and evaluate village level forestry/natural resource projects and to elicit from their experience those project elements most critical to project success.
3. to clarify the kinds of further technical and resource support and back-up required from PC, AID and host country ministry for a successful forestry project, and to prepare for the continued collaboration implied.
4. to the extent feasible, to improve communications and regional collaboration among various organizations involved in tropical forestry.

In a final workshop evaluation, and a follow-up 4 month reevaluation, an overwhelming majority of the workshop participants indicated that these goals had been met. The workshop agenda and a sample of the evaluation feedback is enclosed in Appendices B and C. Two activities during the workshop stood out. The first was a series of presentations on the programming systems used by AID, Peace Corps and private voluntary organizations. Immediately following these presentations, ministry officials were asked to compare how their governmental planning process was different or similar to those of the donor agencies. All participants felt this activity was extremely beneficial in more clearly defining the goals and procedures of each group.

A second important activity involved having the participants from each country draft a preliminary outline of a potential forestry/natural resource project for their countries. Through a combination of team preparation and a series of critique sessions involving other country teams and programming experts, each country's project outline was designed. In addition to providing

The initial plans for a similar staff training forestry programming workshop for countries in the Far East/Pacific Region were completed in September 1981. In conjunction with Peace Corps/Philippines and AID/Philippines, OPTC will conduct a workshop for participants from Fiji, Tonga, Thailand, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Western Samoa, and Papua New Guinea. The goals of the workshop and many of the activities will be similar to those in Costa Rica. Attendance by thirty representatives from Peace Corps, AID, and host country ministry is anticipated.

The second form of programming assistance provided was individual programming consultants. The Peace Corps staff in both Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic expressed interest in further programming assistance during the workshop. A consultant was sent to Costa Rica for two weeks and to the Dominican Republic for four weeks. In the former, he assisted in revising an existing forestry project that is undergoing rapid expansion. In the latter, the consultant assisted in the preparation of a new PC forestry project. In both countries, the consultant worked very closely with ministry officials and held discussions with AID staff concerning current or potential collaborative project development with Peace Corps. Evaluations were solicited and received from those countries receiving the assistance. Feedback provided us illustrated real benefits were derived from this assistance. (See Appendix D).

Following the Far East, Pacific forestry programming workshop, similar assistance will be provided to those countries that demonstrate a need. Peace Corps funded programmers and program assistance by country are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2
PEACE CORPS FORESTRY PROGRAMMING FUNDED CONSULTANTS

INTER-AMERICA

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>OBJECTIVES</u>	<u>DATES</u>
Mahaffey, G.	Costa Rica, Paraguay	Program Review	Feb - March
Mahaffey, G.	8 Inter-American Countries	Programming Workshop	June
Tuttle, J.	8 Inter-American Countries	Programming Workshop	June
Weeks, J.	8 Inter-American Countries	Administrator/Workshop	June
Pando, M.G.	8 Inter-American Countries	Workshop Facilitator	June
Campoamor, D.	8 Inter-American Countries	Workshop Co-Facilitator	June
Donovan, P.	Costa Rica	Forestry Project Design	September
Donovan, R.	Dominican Republic	Forestry Project Design	October

FAR EAST/PACIFIC

Tuttle, J.	7 NANEAP Countries	Workshop Programmer	December
Salt, E.	7 NANEAP Countries	Workshop Facilitator	December
Kichorowsky, M.	7 NANEAP Countries	Administrator/Workshop	December

3. TRAINING

A third major outcome has been the initial development of a in-country Pre-Service technical forestry training model. Peace Corps volunteers in forestry and natural resource projects normally receive technical training in-country. In many cases, this technical training has not been coordinated with the language instruction and cross-cultural sessions the volunteers receive. Recognizing the need for PCVs in forestry/natural resources to be familiar with the complex inter-personal relationships between the technical and social factors involved in reforestation efforts, the new training models will more closely integrate language, cross-cultural and technical instruction.

The Forestry Pre-Service training model has been developed for use in the Inter-American region countries of Peace Corps. The model or design lends itself to single country or multi-country use. The volunteers will be trained in Ecuador in November and December, 1981. Trainees from two countries are participating in order for the model design to incorporate a methodology that includes both the generic forestry skills required in both countries and those skills unique to each one.

Two professional trainers, Ms. Joan Boardman and Mr. Eugene Braun, and a professional forester, Mr. Bruce Burwell, have been hired to design and implement the training. The two trainers have extensive experience in rural development and cross-cultural matters. Mr. Burwell has years of experience in tropical forestry, including jobs in Chile as both a PCV and with a US multi-national corporation. These consultants are working very closely with OPTC staff and PC staff in Ecuador and Paraguay.

Six weeks prior to the technical training session the consultants conducted a pre-training research visit to Ecuador and Paraguay. During this time, they met with PCVs currently working in forestry/natural resource projects in both countries, the trainers, PC staff and host country ministry officials. In this manner, the consultants had a clear understanding of the needs of both the Peace Corps and HCA staff as well as the PCVs in both countries.

Upon completion of the training session in mid-December, the lead trainer will prepare a training manual. The manual will document the specific day-to-day activities of the training session as well as explain the procedures, resources, and perspectives that are necessary to conduct similar sessions in other countries. This manual will be distributed to all PC offices in the Inter-American Region and should markedly strengthen PC's training efforts in forestry/natural resources.