

PROJECT ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

1. Background Data

A. Project Number and Title:	PATS No. 515-0241 (LRE)
B. Implementing Agency:	Costa Rican Investment & Trade Development Board
C. PACD:	February 28, 1994
D. Amount Obligated:	¢35,000,000 Grant
E. Total Expenditures:	¢9,548,168.39
F. Interest Earned:	¢358,631.61
G. Host Country Contribution:	
Total Planned (LOP)	¢7,500,000
Final Total	¢7,500,000

I. PROJECT GOAL

The goal of the project was to assist the GOCR in further liberalizing the Costa Rican economy.

The purpose of the project was to support the removal of legal and regulatory obstacles to trade and investment expansion.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Major Outputs and Accomplishments

1. The Major LOP Outputs were:

Proposals for legal and regulatory trade and investment reforms and action plans for their implementation.

2. Final Outputs

Three studies were performed by CINDE-contracted consultants:

(1) Public Sector Purchasing Systems, performed by Lic. Francisco Chacón.

STATUS - The "Ley de Contratación Administrativa" is currently being modified by mandate of First Vice President Oreamuno (coordinated by Lic. Rodolfo Saborío). A forum is planned in the near future to discuss the planned modifications.

(2) Identification of Foreign Trade Obstacles Contained in Decrees of the Ministries of Agriculture, Economics and Commerce, and Health by Dr. Jorge Corrales.

STATUS - The Ministry of Agriculture has implemented reforms related to procedures for inscription and importation of agricultural chemicals. COFA, the pharmaceutical trade organization, has proposed reforms to the "Reglamento de Inscripción de Medicamentos" based on the study.

The "Reglamento a la Ley de Salud" is under revision by the GOCR and a new version should be in force by 12/31/94, incorporating Dr. Corrales' recommendations. CINDE held a forum on October 27 and 28 based on the study.

- (3) Statistical Information System for the Foreign Trade Sector, performed by Lic. Víctor Hugo Céspedes.

STATUS - CINDE will hold a forum in December 1994 on this subject to discuss modifications to the present system.

No observational tours were made under the project.

Although CINDE and USAID/Costa Rica made frequent attempts to accelerate project activities, there was not much enthusiasm on the part of the GOCCR to execute additional project activities.

B. Overall Status

By the PACD of February 28, 1995, only ¢9,906,800 of the project grant of ¢35,000,000 had been spent.

The outstanding advance balance as of February 28, 1994 has been repaid as has interest due AID on funds advanced.

The LRE project has been audited by Peat Marwick and a clean certificate was issued in July 1994.