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31 July 2001

Mr. Philip Jones
Project Manager
Environment and Natural Resources Office
USAID/G-CAP
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Subject: Cooperative Agreement No. 596-0167-A-00-5128-00

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Dear Mr. Jones,

Attached is the quarterly report for April through June 2001 for the Local Environmental Policy and Program (LEPPI) Project that is funded by the subject Cooperative Agreement.

If you have any questions on the report, please call Arturo Villalobos or me.

CHF appreciates the opportunity to work with USAID on this innovative regional project.

Sincerely,

Franck Daphnis, Jr.
Director, Field Program Management

Cc: A. Villalobos
USAID, PPC/CDIE/DIO/DEC

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PD-ABT-855

MEMORANDUM

TO: Franck Daphnis, Director of Program Operations CHF/HQ
Michael Jenkins, Program Manager for Latin America CHF/HQ

CC: Dick Owens, Project Officer CHF/HQ

FROM: Arturo Villalobos, LEPPi Team Leader
CHF/LEPPI-Guatemala

DATE: July 14, 2001

SUBJECT: LEPPi ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE SECOND QUARTER (APRIL, MAY, JUNE) 2001.

This report describes the Local Environmental Policy and Program Initiative (LEPPI) activities carried out during the Second Quarter (April, May, June) 2001.

A. OVERVIEW:

- On April 17-21 an EPA-LEPPI team visited Puerto Barrios, Guatemala and discussed with Mr. Mario Chigua, Mayor of the city, Mr. Arnulfo Lopez Regional Representative of the Environmental and Natural Resource Ministry, and Mr. Edgar Beltetón Municipal Environmental Officer, LEPPI's expansion activities/actions in Puerto Barrios, Guatemala.
- On March 30, Ing. Cesar Barrientos, a local consultant contracted by CHF-LEPPI, presented the final consulting report for the plans and design of the new landfill and a complementary composting facility for Puerto Barrios, Guatemala
- Ing. Luis Sosa, LEPPI consultant, delivered on May 21 the waste water system expansion design for the two additional blocks that will be added and connected onto the present waste water treatment plants in Colonia El Cangrejal Rio Escondido, Puerto Barrios, Guatemala.
- On May 17, the Second LEPPI National Workshop was held in Puerto Barrios.
- Construction activities for the waste water system expansion in Barrio El Cangrejal, Puerto Barrios, Guatemala started on June 22 and are programmed to be completed by September 15. The budget for this project is \$42,000.00
- On April 19 a follow-up visit was held to Livingston, Guatemala, by an EPA-LEPPI team. Bruce Henry, Maria Labrador, and Louis Salguero, from EPA (Region 4, Atlanta), representatives of the local environmental steering committee and LEPPI visited the proposed service area for the pilot project and inspected the WWTP building site.

- Due to the limited time remaining and budget limitations in the LEPPI Cooperative agreement, it will not be possible to finance the construction of the project in Livingston, Izabal, Guatemala. It is recommended that the project be included in the following phase of PROARCA.
- On April 4-5, Kathy Gaynor, EPA-Region 4/Atlanta, and LEPPI visited Bocas del Toro, Panama. The main purpose of the visit was to evaluate the designated areas for the landfill and the MRF.
- The Autoridad Nacional del Medio Ambiente (ANAM) in Panamá city approved the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the design-plans presented by Consultores Ecológicos Panameños for the solid waste project in Bocas del Toro, Panama.
- LEPPI continues to follow-up on the technical and economic proposal presented by Mr. Eladio Robinson to the President of Panama for the financing of the solid waste integrated management project in Bocas del Toro, Panama.
- LEPPI is supporting the city of Omoa, Honduras with the plan and design of a pilot wastewater collection and treatment plant project in Colonia Costa Rica. On May 11, Ing. Jose M. Zuñiga, presented to LEPPI the final technical report that includes the design of the wastewater collection and treatment system for Colonia Costa Rica within the city of Omoa, Honduras.
- On April 25, LEPPI met with Ing. Carlos Flores from the Municipal Development Division-USAID Honduras and he confirmed that the Mission will provide funding support for the implementation of the integrated solid waste management project in Choluteca and the waste water collection and treatment system in the East sector of the city of Tela, Honduras.
- On May 27, an evaluation committee that included representatives from USAID/Honduras, the Fondo Hondureño de Inversion Social (FHIS), Mr. Milton Castillo, Mayor of Tela, CHF/Honduras and LEPPI reviewed, evaluated and ranked the technical and economic proposals submitted for the design of the waste water collection and treatment system in the city of Tela, Honduras.
- Ing. Carlos Talavera from CONTECNICA, S. A., a consulting firm contracted by CHF/LEPPI, continues to work on the design of the new landfill and complementary facilities included in the integrated solid waste management project for Choluteca, Honduras.
- CHF-LEPPI and the EPA continue to provide technical assistance to the private enterprise in charge of the management and administration of the solid waste management, collection and disposal project for the communities of Usulután, Puerto El Triunfo, Ereguayquín and Concepción Batres, El Salvador.
- Ing. Ana Graciela González Handall of the National Administration for Aqueducts and Sewer Systems (ANDA) informed LEPPI that the construction activities of the sewage system and treatment plant in Colonia Puerta del Sol, Usulután, El Salvador, will start on April 16.
- On June 23, LEPPI met with Ing. Marvin E. Vega of ANDA to discuss progress on the construction works of the sewage system and treatment plant in Colonia Puerta del Sol, Usulután, El Salvador.
- LEPPI made a follow-up visit to La Unión, El Salvador on April 24 and met with Mr. Mario Osorto,

Mayor of the city, members of the Municipal Board, Lic. Joaquin Ayala and Ing. David Bernal representatives of the INDES (Institute of Sports) and Ing. Ivan Hernandez, Municipal engineer, to discuss specific aspects of the pilot wastewater system and treatment plant project.

- Follow-up visits to San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, were held on April 4 and May 25 to evaluate the construction status of the MRF and other rehabilitation activities (trash dumping area) of the integrated solid waste management project.
- On April 3, LEPPI and Kathy Gaynor, EPA-Region 4/Atlanta, made a complementary evaluation visit to Somotillo-Villanueva, Nicaragua and conducted an assessment and evaluation visit of the proposed site for the construction of the landfill and MRF.
- On June 20, CHF/LEPPI and INIFOM (Instituto Nicaraguense de Fomento Municipal) signed a cooperative agreement for the construction of a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and a landfill for the communities of Somotillo and Villanueva.
- The construction of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and an internal bridge in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, is expected to be completed by July 15. CHF/LEPPI programmed the inauguration of the project for July 25, 2001.

B. CURRENT ACTIVITIES IN LEPPI COMMUNITIES:

1. GUATEMALA

Waste Water Treatment Plant System

On April 17-21 a follow-up visit was made to Puerto Barrios by an EPA-LEPPI team. Bruce Henry, Maria Labrador, and Louis Salguero, from EPA (Region 4, Atlanta) to evaluate the operation and maintenance criteria of the pilot wastewater treatment plants (WWTP's). The team met with Mr. Mario Chigua, Mayor of Puerto Barrios, Mr. Arnulfo Lopez Regional Representative of the Environmental and Natural Resource Ministry and Mr. Edgar Belteton Municipal Environmental Officer, to discuss the follow-up and expansion of LEPPI activities/actions.

In order to provide the most appropriate maintenance of the WWTP's, a wastewater treatment operator for the facility was designated by CHF and the municipality. CHF and the municipality are sharing the expenses of the operator until September 30th. EPA and LEPPI personnel instructed the operator in maintenance and operation procedures for the WWTP's.

The EPA technical team inspected and evaluated the two proposed blocks to expand the service area of the current WWTP's. The preliminary system design plan prepared by Ing. Sosa for subject blocks was also reviewed. It was determined that the design plans for expanding the service area need some modifications. A meeting with Ing. Sosa, was held in Guatemala City on April 20 to review and discuss the design and prepare changes. The final report and design for the two additional blocks that will be added and connected onto the present wastewater treatment plants in Colonia El Cangrejal, Rio Escondido was presented on 21 May.

LEPPI requested cost proposals from different private firms for the construction of the waste water system expansion. The budget for the project is \$42,000. LEPPI contracted RYSCO S.A. for the construction of the project. Construction activities started on June 22 and they are programmed to be completed by September 15.

On May 17, the Second LEPPPI's National Workshop was held in Puerto Barrios. The event was attended by officials/inspectors from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the Izabal Governor Lic. Lucrecia Quinto, the Mayor of Puerto Barrios, Mr. Mario Chigua, members of the Pto. Barrios Environmental Steering Committee, government officials, members of the local army forces, representatives of local and international NGO's, Mr. Domingo Menjivar, Mayor of the city of Omoa, Honduras and interested citizens. The workshop served as an opportunity for CHF/LEPPPI participants to share experiences and "lessons learned" regarding efforts in the implementation of waste water and solid waste management, collection and treatment systems. It also served as an opportunity to strengthen the communication links between the local municipal authorities and government and community members that have actively participated in solving the city's environmental contamination problems.

Solid Waste-Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Project

On March 30, Ing. Cesar Barrientos, a local consultant contracted by CHF-LEPPPI, presented the final report that includes the plans and design of the new landfill and a complementary composting facility for Puerto Barrios. These facilities will be constructed in an area adjacent to the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in the finca Piteros. A copy of the report was presented to RUDO-USAID/G. Funding for this design and plans was provided by the USAID's Making Cities Work Matching Grants Program. The Local Environmental Steering Committee continues to look for funding sources to finance the construction of subject facilities.

b. LIVINGSTON: An evaluation committee was created to review and evaluate the technical and economic proposals for the design and plans of the waste water collection and treatment system (pilot project) in the city of Livingston. The committee selected Ing. Cesar Barrientos to do the work.

On April 19 a visit was made to Livingston by an EPA-LEPPPI team. Bruce Henry, Maria Labrador, and Louis Salguero, from EPA (Region 4, Atlanta), representatives of the local environmental steering committee and LEPPPI visited the proposed service area for the pilot project and inspected the WWTP building site. The boundaries of the proposed service area were adjusted with the consent of the committee.

The committee determined that the building site will need alterations to accommodate the recirculating sand filter and the location of the pumping station will have to be determined after the topographical layout is completed. On April 20, EPA and LEPPPI met with Ing Cesar Barrientos to discuss some specific aspects of the design. The proposed service area was outlined and the project concept was explained. Ing. Cesar Barrientos informed LEPPPI that the final design of the wastewater system and treatment plant for Livingston will be ready on July 10.

An alternative service area for the construction of subject pilot project was identified and inspected by LEPPPI and EPA officials. The boundaries of the proposed service area were adjusted with the consent of the local Mayor and the municipal Board.

Because of the limited implementation time remaining and budget constraints, LEPPPI will not be able to finance the construction of this project. It is recommended that the project be included in the following phase of PROARCA.

2. **PANAMA**

a. **BOCAS DEL TORO:** The Autoridad Nacional del Medio Ambiente (ANAM) in Panama City approved the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the design-plans presented by Consultores Ecológicos Panameños S.A. (CEPSA), a consulting firm hired by CHF-LEPPI. CEPSA is also preparing an economic and feasibility study for the collection and disposal of solid waste on the island. A presentation of the final report is scheduled for August 3.

To further support the solid waste project implementation, on April 4-5 LEPPI and EPA (Kathy Gaynor), conducted a site assessment of the pre-selected location for the landfill and the Material Recovery Facility (MRF). The report prepared by K. Gaynor includes important technical recommendations regarding the site. These recommendations were shared with ANAM and the municipal authorities.

On May 4, Mr. Eladio Robinson, city Mayor, presented a technical and economic request to the President of Panama for the financing of the project. On June 27, Mr. Robinson informed LEPPI that subject request was accepted by the Social Investment Fund (Fondo de Inversion Social-FIS) of Panama and that the administrative arrangements for the assignment of the appropriate budget for the construction of the project, are in process.

3. **HONDURAS**

a. **CHOLUTECA:**

Ing. Carlos Talavera from CONTECNICA S.A., a consultant firm contracted by CHF-LEPPI, continues to work on the design of the new landfill and complementary facilities included in the integrated solid waste management project for Choluteca. The first technical report will be presented by CONTECNICA on July 7.

Ing. Carlos Flores from the Municipal Development Division-USAID informed LEPPI that the Mission has some funding available for subject project.

b. **TELA**

On May 27, an evaluation committee that included representatives from USAID-Honduras, the Fondo Hondureño de Inversión Social (FHIS), Mr. Milton Castillo, Mayor of Tela, CHF-Honduras and LEPPI reviewed, evaluated and ranked the technical and economic proposals submitted for the design of the wastewater collection and treatment system in the city of Tela. LEPPI met with Ing. Jose M. Zúñiga, who presented the most appropriate technical and economic proposal for the project to discuss specific details regarding his proposal. As a result of the meeting, LEPPI contracted Ing. Zúñiga to design the wastewater collection and treatment system project. Ing. Zúñiga will deliver a final report and the plans and designs by August 30th.

USAID Honduras informed LEPPI that the Mission has some funding available for subject project.

c. **OMOA**

CHF/LEPPI continues to support the community of Omoa in the implementation of a wastewater collection and treatment system for Colonia Costa Rica within the city of Omoa. Mr. Domingo Menjivar, Mayor of Omoa ranked the wastewater problem as the first priority in subject neighborhood with a population of 1,200 people. On May 11, Ing. Jose M. Zúñiga, presented to

LEPPI the final technical report that includes the design of the wastewater collection and treatment system for a wastewater collection and treatment system in the Colonia. According to Mr. Menjivar, counterpart funding will be provided by the residents of Colonia Costa Rica (non-skilled labor) and the Municipality (skilled labor and materials). LEPPI has scheduled a town meeting for July 7 to discuss the project and the community participation required on its implementation.

4. **EL SALVADOR**

a. **LA UNION:** LEPPI activities in El Salvador were delayed by the two earthquakes that seriously affected this country on January and February of this year. Related post-earthquake re-construction activities also affected the project's activities. As reported, the terms of reference (TR) for the design of a waste water treatment plant and a complementary irrigation system in La Union were sent in two different dates to different consulting firms in El Salvador.

LEPPI made a follow-up visit to La Union on April 24 and met with Mr. Mario Osorto, Mayor of the city, members of the Municipal Board, Lic. Joaquin Ayala and Ing. David Bernal representatives of the INDES (Institute of Sports) and Ing. Ivan Hernandez, Municipal engineer to discuss specific aspects of the wastewater system and treatment plant. An evaluation visit was made to the designated site (a local sport center).

On May 2, an evaluation committee that included representatives from the Municipality of La Unión, CHF-LEPPI and representatives of the environmental steering committee, reviewed, evaluated and ranked the technical and economic proposal submitted. LEPPI contracted Ing. Granados, a local consultant, to design the wastewater treatment plant. The Final report will be presented to LEPPI on June 25. Because of the limited time and funds remaining, LEPPI will recommend that the project be implemented during the following phase of PROARCA.

An EPA-LEPPI training session on solid waste management and landfill construction parameters was re-scheduled for July 17

b. **USULUTAN:**

Solid Waste Project: CHF-LEPPI and EPA continue to provide technical assistance to the private enterprise in charge of the management and administration of the solid waste management, collection and disposal project for the communities of Usulután, Puerto El Triunfo, Ereaguayquin and Concepcion Batres.

CHF-LEPPI and EPA officials have scheduled a follow-up and a construction evaluation visit for July 18. The project continues to receive technical support from the Research Triangle Institute (RTI). The municipal enterprise is also receiving technical support from the S.M. Group International, a private consulting firm from Canada.

Waste Water and Treatment Plant Project:

In June 23, LEPPI met with Ing. Marvin E. Vega of the National Administration for Aqueducts and Sewer Systems (ANDA) to discuss progress on the construction works of the sewage system and treatment plant in Colonia Puerta del Sol in Usulután. Ing. Vega informed LEPPI that some technical adjustments in the original design were required. ANDA expects to start the construction activities by July 3 and expect to finish by September 15th.

5. **NICARAGUA**

a. **SAN JUAN DEL SUR:** On May 25 and June 30, LEPPI made follow-up evaluation visits to San Juan del Sur. The purpose of the visits were to evaluate the landfill rehabilitation construction progress. During the visits, LEPPI met with Arq. Marvin Palacios - INIFOM, Mayor Abelardo Nuñez, members of the Municipal Board and the local environmental steering committee. Arq. Palacios informed us that the construction of the perimeter fence, entrance control facility, construction of a new cell and other rehabilitation activities are concluded. The construction of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and an internal bridge are expected to be finished by July 27. CHF-LEPPI has programmed the inauguration of the project for July 25.

b. **Villanueva-Somotillo:** The communities of Villanueva and Somotillo lack appropriate solid waste and waste water collection and disposal/treatment systems. The Mayors of both cities agreed to unify efforts to find an appropriate solution for subject problem. On April 3, LEPPI and EPA (Kathy Gaynor) conducted a site assessment of the preselected location for the solid waste landfill and composting program and met with Mr. Horacio Lanzas, Mayor of Villanueva, members of the local environmental steering committee and Municipal Board representatives to discuss specific aspects of the solid waste collection-disposal system and landfill construction. Lic. Francisco Jácamo from the Graduate School of Environmental Law, University of Nicaragua, accompanied LEPPI during the visit. Lic. Jacamo indicated that the University could provide specific assistance (legal, administration, etc.) to the institution that will be in charge of the solid waste collection and disposal. Mr. Lanzas and others members of the environmental steering committee, will follow-up on this offer for assistance.

On June 1, EPA (Kathy Gaynor) submitted to LEPPI a technical report with specific recommendations regarding the pre-selected site and other solid waste management issues. This materials was shared with the mayors of both Somotillo and Villanueva and INIFOM (Instituto Nicaraguense de Fomento Municipal).

On June 20, CHF-LEPPI and INIFOM (Instituto Nicaraguense de Fomento Municipal) signed a cooperative agreement for the construction of a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and a landfill for the communities of Somotillo and Villanueva. Project activities started on June 15th and are expected to conclude by September 15th. Project activities include an economic feasibility study and an appropriate tariff system.

LEPPI is also providing funding for a composting training program (four one-day workshops), as a complement to subject solid waste management project.

C. **CASE STUDIES**

CHF-LEPPI prepared case studies of the work in communities of Puerto Barrios-Guatemala, Usulután-El Salvador and Chilibre, Panamá (Spanish and English versions). The main purpose of these formal publications is to disseminate LEPPI's experiences and lessons learned during the project's implementation phase in the Central American Region. These publications will also be an excellent marketing tool for USAID and CHF in other regions of the developing world.

D. **MEETINGS**

1. On June 5-8, CHFLEPPI attended the Regional PROARCA roundup meeting in Montelimar, Nicaragua. As per the request of the USAID-G-CAP, we made a presentation on the latest results and recommendations from the LEPPI projects in Honduras and Nicaragua.
2. Coordination meetings are held on a regular basis with USAID/G-CAP officials, to discuss LEPPI's most important issues and actions-activities in the region.
3. Coordination meetings are held on a regular basis with partner entities and organizations participating in the PROARCA regional program: COMISION CENTROAMERICA DE AMBIENTE Y DESARROLLO (CCAD), PROARCA/COSTAS and PROARCA/CAPAS to discuss LEPPI's most important issues and actions-activities in the region.
4. Information and coordination meetings are also held with other key personnel in environmental, private and government agencies, institutes and ministries in the Region.

E. GENDER AND ETHNIC CONSIDERATIONS

Gender and Ethnic issues continue to be considered under the LEPPI project. The presence and active participation of indigenous groups and women in LEPPI's workshops and other project activities will continue to be encouraged.

F. ACTIVITIES PLANNED:

Schedule of the activities/actions planned for the month of July-August 2001.

COMMUNITY/COUNTRY	DATE	RESPONSIBLE STAFF
OMOA/ HONDURAS	July 3-4	Inspection visit, WW project construction status, Colonia Costa Rica. Training workshop LEPPi methodology. M.Bolaños
LA UNION/ EL SALVADOR	July 3-4	Inspection visit, WW project construction status. N.Gamboa.
SAN JUAN DEL SUR/ NICARAGUA	July 4	Inspection visit, SW project and landfill rehabilitation construction status. M.Bolaños
VILLANUEVA-SOMOTILLO/ NICARAGUA.	July 5	Inspection visit, SW project and landfill construction status. M.Bolaños
PTO. BARRIOS-LIVINGSTON/ GUATEMALA.	July 9-10	Inspection visit, WW projects construction status. N.Gamboa.
LA UNION/ EL SALVADOR	July 17	Training Workshop on integrated solid waste management LEPPI-EPA Kathy Gaynor N.Gamboa, A.Villalobos
USULUTAN/ EL SALVADOR	July 18	Inspection visit, SW project and landfill construction status. LEPPI-EPA Kathy Gaynor M.Bolaños, A.Villalobos
TEGUCIGALPA/ HONDURAS	July 25	National Workshop to present the CHF-LEPPI project achievements and to discuss lessons learned. A.Villalobos, M. Bolaños
SAN JUAN DEL SUR/ NICARAGUA	July 31	Inspection and final evaluation visit SW project and landfill rehabilitation INIFOM, A. Villalobos, M.Bolaños
VILLANUEVA-SOMOTILLO/ NICARAGUA.	August 1	Inspection visit, SW project and landfill construction status. A. Villalobos, M.Bolaños
BOCAS DEL TORO/PANAMA.	August 3	Presentation of Economic Feasibility Study SEPSA A.Villalobos

G. LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND PROGRAM INITIATIVE PROJECT (LEPPI)

June 2001

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	Achieved during Reporting Period	Cumulative	Goal for Life of the Project (FY 2001)
I. Outputs/Deliverables			
a. Technical support provided to communities to deal with Solid Waste and Waste Water problems.	1	19	19
b. Municipalities prepared/implemented related municipal regulations/ordinances to mitigate, lessen or avoid environmental contamination in key areas (urban, national parks, biological reserves, etc.)	--	6	10
c. 5 environmental monitoring systems for key pollutants designed and in operation.	--	3	5
d. 5 communities/municipalities obtained additional funding (loans/grants) from local or external sources, through well designed project proposals/studies.	--	9	10
e. National workshops/seminars (5) and regional conferences (3).	--	5	8
f. 3 case studies prepared and presented in regional/national conferences and workshops.	--	3	3
g. 3 formal publications prepared and published.	1	3	3
II. Impact Indicators			
a. Households benefitted from LEPPi	5,000	6,000	5,000
b. People learn of LEPPi at workshops and other meetings	5,000	12,000	5,000