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Biodiversity Support Program

21st Semi-Annual Progress Report

October 1, 1998 - March 31, 1999



June 15, 1999



The Biodiversity Support Program (BSP) promotes conservation of the world's biological diversity and maximizes the impact of U.S. government resources directed toward international biodiversity conservation.

We believe that a healthy and secure living resource base is essential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.

Biodiversity Support Program



A U.S.A.I.D.-funded consortium of World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and World Resources Institute

June 15, 1999

Mr. Jerry Bisson
USAID/G/ENV/ENR
Ronald Reagan Building
3.07-031/3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20523-3800

Dear Jerry,

Enclosed is the Biodiversity Support Program's *Twenty-first Semi-Annual Progress Report* for the period October 1, 1998-March 31, 1999. Included are highlights of accomplishments by our regional, global, and cross-cutting programs over the reporting period, as well as project activity and staff travel updates.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments regarding this report.

Sincerely,


Judy Oglethorpe
Executive Director

cc: USAID:
Mike Benge, G/ENV
Cynthia Gill, G/ENV
Michael Philley, G/ENV
Ben Stoner, G/ENV
Jim Graham, Africa
John Mitchell, Africa
Tim Resch, Africa
Tobey Pierce, Asia
John Wilson, Asia
Melody Bacha, E. Europe Bureau
Jeff Brokaw, LAC
Tom Fox, PPC
Jim Hester, PPC
Doug Mason, Bolivia
George Taylor, Bolivia
Eric Stoner, Brazil
John Grayzel, DRC
Melissa Knight, Haiti
John Warren, Honduras
David Heesen, Indonesia
Frank Zadroga, Mexico
David Johnston, Nepal

Margaret Herrit, Nicaragua
Edilberto Alarcon, Peru
Alan Davis, Peru
Oliver Chapeyama, RCSA
Ray Morton, RCSA
David Hess, Rwanda
Eric Loken, Zimbabwe

OTHER:
Peter Thomas, STATE/OES
Sheldon Cohen, TNC
Gina Green, TNC
Greg Miller, TNC
Christine Elias, WRI
Nels Johnson, WRI
Tony Laviña, WRI
Kenton Miller, WRI
Twig Johnson, WWF
Kate Newman, WWF
Randy Snodgrass, WWF
Diane Wood, WWF
Lee Zahnaw, WWF

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Biodiversity Support Program (BSP), established by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in 1988, is a consortium of World Wildlife Fund (WWF), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and World Resources Institute (WRI). BSP supports local communities, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and governments to establish clear conservation priorities, goals, and objectives; democratic social processes, dialogue, and partnerships; incentives for the ethical valuation of nature; favorable policies; and enhanced awareness and knowledge. BSP's approach focuses on integrating conservation with social and economic development, research and analysis of conservation approaches, and information exchange and outreach.

During this reporting period, BSP focused on completing existing projects, undertaking new ones, and completing a strategy for communicating lessons learned from both regional and cross-cutting programs. To ensure that its legacy is broadly disseminated, BSP expanded its communications program to include a communications director and initiated development of its interim web site.

This report highlights summaries of key analysis topics (Section II), staff travel and outreach (Section III), and activity updates for all current BSP projects (Section IV).

II. Analysis Topic Highlights

Communicating Cross-cutting Lessons

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Communicating Cross-cutting Lessons

During this six-month reporting period, BSP's Analysis and Adaptive Management (AAM) program initiated and continued research on analytical topics that are considered key to meeting the needs of conservation and development practitioners to promote conservation objectives. These five topics, which are highlighted below, were selected in collaboration with BSP's consortium partner organizations and USAID. In addition to undertaking these studies, the AAM team began exploring three cross-cutting themes that have emerged from BSP's regional field-based programs: coalition-building, institutional strengthening, and portfolio-building.

Adaptive management

In the context of conservation initiatives, *Adaptive Management* is defined as a process of learning, defining policies and practices, and decision-making in which an organization responsible for the conservation of a particular ecosystem or area is responsive to changes in the biophysical and social environment and is able to react quickly and with appropriate interventions.

To make sound management decisions under complex and evolving conditions, an organization must be able to test assumptions and hypotheses continuously; experiment with alternative approaches to resolve problems and address pertinent issues; generate, analyze, and use relevant and reliable data; determine the impacts of its chosen course of action (to address causality); and, by learning from failure as well as success, apply these lessons to future program decisions.

This study draws on the work of academics and development practitioners to develop a sound operational definition of adaptive management. It documents cases where organizations have used adaptive management to achieve their conservation objectives and demonstrate under what conditions they have been successful. The study also aims to develop practitioner-focused tools and approaches for promoting adaptive management of conservation and development projects.

During this six-month reporting period, BSP and BCN staff drafted a framework to help define the principles of adaptive management for conservation and development projects. This framework was presented and discussed at a September 1998 workshop held at Cornell University. AAM staff began selecting partners who will participate in the next phase of the study, during which sites will be visited to test the framework. Data collection and analysis will occur over the next six months.

Role of NGOs

The practice of biodiversity conservation is a relatively new and complex enterprise. Anyone working alone to meet conservation goals will likely lack adequate resources or all appropriate expertise to create successful projects. Some organizations are more effective at reaching their

conservation goals than others. But what are the key institutional factors that lead to success? To help ensure the likelihood of success, various types of strategic alliances are increasingly being formed between local, national, and international organizations in hopes of sharing costs and pooling resources to realize effective biodiversity conservation. Although strategic alliances have been around for awhile, there is still much to learn about which characteristics of institutional partnerships are key to engendering effective alliances and promoting conservation success.

The purpose of this study is to determine the characteristics of effective NGOs and NGO alliances that work to conserve biodiversity. The study primarily centers on the role that international, national, and local nongovernmental organizations NGOs play in assisting in the implementation of conservation and development projects.

During the six-month reporting period, final data collection was completed and analysis began. Work focused on the 20 BCN-funded projects in Asia and the Pacific. Final analysis is to be completed over the next six months.

Setting biodiversity conservation priorities: Approaches and impacts

This AAM priority-setting study assesses the extent to which results of completed priority-setting exercises are drawn upon to plan and implement conservation interventions. We consider whether and how exercise results and follow-up recommendations have or have not been disseminated, promoted, and applied. We also seek to document any correlation between conservation impact and particular exercise methods or processes. Our study set includes both geographically- and sectorally-based exercises, ranging from highly technical, computer-based activities run by a handful of biologists to participatory workshops involving individuals from many diverse backgrounds and disciplines. During this six-month reporting period, our consultant completed a draft background paper for this study.

Over the next several months, AAM staff will undertake the considerable research still required to complete this study. Both BSP-supported projects and those funded by other sources will be included to broaden our comparative basis for drawing conclusions. BSP projects include the Biodiversity Conservation Prioritization Project (BCPP) for India; conservation needs assessments for Bulgaria, Ukraine, and Papua New Guinea; and terrestrial and aquatic (marine and freshwater) priority-setting exercises for Latin America and the Caribbean. We will also determine the most effective means of publishing and disseminating the study results to reach policymakers, funding agencies, and conservation practitioners.

Decentralization and partnerships for biodiversity conservation

This AAM study examines the processes and practices of decentralization in the context of biodiversity conservation and management. We address the hypothesis that primary local management of natural resources will result in more effective conservation than centralized

management if local people are endowed with both decision-making power and access to viable economic alternatives to overuse.

Our analysis incorporates findings from six case studies, representing a range of resource management units, institutional arrangements, and levels of decentralization in Botswana, Bolivia, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, and the United States. Having received our consultant's completed draft report during the six-month reporting period, we have since been soliciting reviewer commentary. Presently, we are incorporating these suggestions, particularly those concerning the need to place the study in a wider political science context. Over the next six months, we will formulate and finalize plans to publish both the comprehensive decentralization analysis and briefs of the six case studies.

Impact of sustainable agriculture on biodiversity conservation

The goals of this AAM study are to determine the impacts of sustainable agriculture interventions on biodiversity conservation; review and evaluate the socioeconomic, policy, and institutional conditions under which sustainable agriculture is most effective in achieving biodiversity conservation objectives; and determine the extent to which sustainable agriculture can serve as a vehicle for other types of interventions that may more directly impact biodiversity conservation objectives.

BSP's AAM staff are conducting the study in collaboration with two partners in Latin America: Línea Biósfera, A.C. in the El Ocote Biosphere Reserve in Mexico and Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza in the Sierras de las Minas Biosphere Reserve in Guatemala. These partners have recently completed household surveys and work with focus groups that examine the direct and indirect effects of sustainable agriculture programs on biodiversity conservation. Results, which are currently being analyzed, will culminate in an analysis workshop to be held in August 1999, followed by completion of the final document.

III. STAFF TRAVEL AND
OUTREACH

Janis Alcorn

Date	Place	Purpose
10/98	Indonesia	PeFoR Planning Meeting; KEMALA forum
10/98	Washington, DC	Participated in Seminar on Conserving Culture and Nature at the International Conference on Culture in Sustainable Development
10/98	Baltimore, MD	Presented a paper on "Decentralization Lessons from the Forestry Sector" at the Environmental Officers Conference
11/98	Washington, DC	Participated in Workshop on Opportunities for a Consortium of Universities and Conservation Organizations
12/98	Malaysia	Attended International Conference on Indigenous Peoples and Protected Areas
12/98	Philadelphia, PA	Participated in a panel on Health and Biodiversity at American Anthropology Association meeting
1/99	Indonesia	Visited KEMALA; attended resilience study writers workshops
2/99	Berkeley, CA	Gave lecture on NGO policy advocacy at University of California at Berkeley
3/99	Gainesville, FL	Gave lecture on lessons learned from community-based mapping at University of Florida

Hilary Barbour

Date	Place	Purpose
10/98	Honduras	Met with Fundación VIDA, Board Members, and USAID staff to develop a workplan for BSP's technical assistance

Rebecca Ham

Date	Place	Purpose
3/99	Switzerland	Met with headquarters staff of UNHCR, Green Cross, IUCN, and WWF
3/99	Guinea, Liberia, Rwanda, Uganda	Completed assessment and analysis of field-based activities aimed at mitigating the negative effects of armed conflict on biodiversity

Stephen Kelleher

Date	Place	Purpose
10/98	Boise, Idaho	Participated in a CIFOR Forest Indicator and Monitoring Workshop
10/98	Nepal	Participated in technical assistance, program, and workplan review

Stephen Kelleher (cont'd)

Date	Place	Purpose
1/99-2/99	Nepal	Visited Ban Udyam sites; participated in Banke and Bardia Community forestry workshops; visited USAID field Mission
3/99-4/99	Nepal	Provided technical assistance to Ban Udyam; and participated in USAID/Nepal negotiations, team building, and workplan workshop

Patrick Maguire

Date	Place	Purpose
10/98	Indonesia	Attended KEMALA forum

James-Christopher Miller

Date	Place	Purpose
2/99	Indonesia	Reviewed field office procedures and trained staff in use of WWF database

Judy Oglethorpe

Date	Place	Purpose
10/98	New York	Attended CARPE SOT Meeting
11/98	United Kingdom	Attended meetings for the Disasters and Transboundary projects
12/98	Botswana	Participated in Mission briefing on Transboundary project
12/98	South Africa	Attended Transboundary workshop
3/99	United Kingdom	Attended Disasters and Environment conference

Vance Russell

Date	Place	Purpose
12/98	Mexico	Met with partner Línea Biósfera for data collection follow-up on sustainable agriculture analytical topic research
12/98	Guatemala	Met with partner Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza for data collection follow-up on sustainable agriculture analytical topic research
2/99	Mexico	Made cross-visit to Mexico to meet with Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza and Línea Biósfera for the sustainable agriculture analytical topic research

Staff Travel and Outreach

Laurent Somé

Date	Place	Purpose
10/98	New York	Attended CARPE SOT Meeting

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Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation

COLLABORATORS

USAID

LOP FUNDING

\$253,000

DATES

1995-Ongoing

PURPOSE

To improve collaboration between the agriculture and natural resource management (NRM) sectors of USAID and achieve greater integration of agriculture and NRM issues.

DESCRIPTION

An initial brainstorming session on promotion of collaboration between the biodiversity and agricultural sectors was held. Research is being done on USAID African projects, which incorporate biodiversity and agriculture, and a typology of the two sectors within USAID Washington is being developed. The mutual understanding between the agriculture and NRM sectors within USAID will be enhanced, leading to better collaboration between the two sectors and greater integration of agriculture and natural resource issues into future activities.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Interviews with USAID biodiversity and agriculture staff were conducted to determine the goals and strategies of their own sectors, as well as their views on the goals and strategies of the other sector. The first draft of *Linking Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation: Review of USAID-supported Efforts in Africa* by Mohamed Bakarr was completed and will be reviewed. Plans were made for the distribution of the document in conjunction with the interview write-up, as well as a summary of interactions between the two sectors that will lead to better programming.



Judy Oglethorpe

Analysis of Behaviors in Conservation and Development

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon, Kenya, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe

LOP FUNDING

\$475,000

DATES

1992-2000

PURPOSE

To help field-level practitioners better understand what motivates environmental behaviors and increase their effectiveness in conducting social analyses of conservation and natural resource management problems in order to find lasting solutions.

DESCRIPTION

An assessment of the knowledge of attitudes and behavior change in Phase I included an examination of practical methods for understanding the motivations for change and analyzed the local- and policy-level impacts of past and present efforts in conservation education in Africa. This resulted in the publication *Understanding and Influencing Behaviors in Conservation and Natural Resource Management*.

Phase II also built capacity in behavior-centered assessment methods, through small grants to field-level organizations to support their adaptation and application of some of the "best practices" identified in Phase I. Six grants were awarded to implement and evaluate one or more social assessment methods, and to provide case studies that can be used to guide other field practitioners in integrating social assessment into the management of their projects.

The final phase of the Analysis of Behaviors in Conservation and Development Project will produce a field guide. This aims to help field-level practitioners better understand what motivates environmental behaviors. It will increase their effectiveness in conducting social analyses of conservation and natural resource management problems in order to find lasting, logical, and comprehensive solutions.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The author of *Understanding and Influencing Behaviors in Conservation and Natural Resource Management*, BSP, and ACTION (an African NGO) have worked closely together to produce the guide. The draft text has undergone several reviews by the African Advisory Group and grantees. The field guide is presently being designed and illustrated by ACTION in Zimbabwe. The publication will then be translated into French and field-tested before being published for wider distribution in Africa.

Biodiversity Analysis for Africa (BAA)

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

LOP FUNDING

\$1.5 million

DATES

1991-1999

PURPOSE

To advance biodiversity conservation and meet human needs by analyzing biodiversity conservation initiatives, strategies, and approaches.

DESCRIPTION

In all of its activities, the BAA project emphasizes participation and capacity-building throughout Africa. During BAA's first phase, the African Biodiversity Consultative Group, comprised of leading African and US natural and social scientists, was formed to learn more about the African perspective on biodiversity conservation. This phase, during which 24 research activities were funded, culminated in the establishment of a framework for understanding and managing biodiversity conservation in Africa, the documentation of which was disseminated through the 1993 publication, *African Biodiversity: Foundation for the Future*.

The second phase of the project consisted of another research grants program and the development of the *Issues in African Biodiversity* series (freestanding papers written by members of the African Biodiversity Consultative Group). Seven funded research activities focused on innovative techniques for improving monitoring and evaluation of impacts of biodiversity conservation efforts. The project is expected to help governments, USAID's Africa Bureau, and USAID Missions and NGOs in Africa shape organizational strategies and programs that will be more effective in conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development through improved use of biological resources.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The results and work of BSP's African partners were the focus of this period. BSP is preparing the following two papers for the *Issues in African Biodiversity* series: *Using Natural Fertilizers in Miombo Woodlands* by Emmanuel Chidumayo and *The Identification, Utilization and Conservation of Medicinal Plants in South-Eastern Nigeria* by Jonathan C. Okafor and Rebecca Ham.

Biodiversity Monitoring and Evaluation (BIOME)

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Namibia, Uganda, Zimbabwe

COLLABORATORS

Fondation des Amis de la Nature (Burkina Faso); WWF's Dzanga-Sangha Forest Reserve Project (Central African Republic); Vie et Forêt (Côte d'Ivoire); Ghana Association for the Conservation of Nature (Ghana); Kenya Energy and Environment Organizations (Kenya); CARE International's Masoala ICDP, Peregrine Fund's Conservation des Zones Humides (Madagascar); Association Malienne pour la Conservation de la Faune et de l'Environnement (Mali); WWF's Living in a Finite Environment (LIFE) Project (Namibia); African Wildlife Foundation's Lake Mbuo Community Conservation Project (Uganda); Africa Resources Trust's Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) (Zimbabwe)

LOP FUNDING

\$862,000

DATES

1994-2000

PURPOSE

To support African conservationists in the comparative analysis of biodiversity conservation projects across sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar.

DESCRIPTION

BIOME is the third phase of the BAA project. It is an analytical project where African project managers and conservationists carry out the entire project cycle from design and implementation to synthesis and dissemination of project documents. BIOME engaged African project managers from 11 sites across sub-Saharan Africa to identify, describe, and analyze key innovative techniques for biodiversity conservation in Africa; disseminate lessons learned; build capacity; and foster communication among project managers, policy-makers, and donors.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The first draft of the project's final document was reviewed, and participants were contacted for updates on their projects. Plans for the final BIOME workshop were initiated.

Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE)

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon

COLLABORATORS

Members of CARPE Advisory Group: Ndinga Assitou, IUCN/Central Africa; Roger Fotso, Wildlife Conservation Society; Robert Winterbottom, IRG; Theodor Trefon, ULB; Henri Bourobou Bourobou, IRET, Gabon

Selected Partners. *US-based:* NASA/University of Maryland, Peace Corps, USAID, USDA/Forest Service, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Learning (PVO-NGO/NRMS), World Resources Institute, WWF-US. *Regional:* African Forest Action Network (AFAN), Avenir des Peuples des Forêts Tropicales (APFT), Conférence des Ecosystèmes de Forêts Denses et Humides d'Afrique Centrale (CEFDHAC), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Central African Sustainable Use Specialist Group, ECOFAC, The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Regional Environmental Information Management Project (REIMP), WWF

LOP FUNDING

\$6.3 million

DATES

1995-Ongoing

PURPOSE

Over the five-year project period, CARPE's purpose is to identify and begin to establish the conditions and practices required for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources of the Congo Basin in a manner that addresses local, national, regional, and international concerns.

DESCRIPTION

CARPE's core philosophy is to facilitate the meaningful involvement of African partners and to ensure that African decision-makers have the capacity to access and use information critical to national forest resource management.

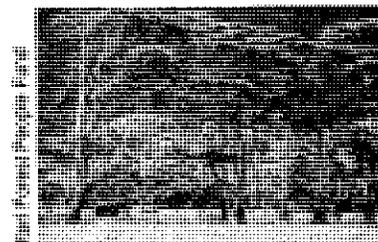
CARPE is being designed and implemented by 10 NGO and US government partners, all of whom have experience working in the region.

BSP is implementing the CARPE Grants Program, which provides financial, technical, and capacity-building support and ensures African participation. The research focus of the project was originally divided into the following topics: indigenous resource management, logging, farming, mining, infrastructure development and urban growth, non-timber forest products, extractive use of animals, and the protected area system and its biodiversity. BSP operates a project field office in Gabon to support collaboration, networking, and administration of the small grants fund within the region. A World Wide Web site is in place with a homepage for CARPE and one for the Field office in Gabon.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

To provide financial, technical, and capacity-building support and ensure African participation, BSP awarded 20 grants under the Strategic Objective Fund, mainly to African but also to US- and European-based institutions and individuals.

BSP coordinated the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the development of the Phase I result synthesis, seeking CARPE Strategic



Objective Team (SOT) input through one-on-one meetings with team members, as well as two SOT meetings. The first meeting, which took place in October 1998, identified how to implement the remainder of the 18-month workplan and defined CARPE Phase I final products; the meeting also started to identify lessons learned and how and to whom these lessons learned will be communicated. The specific objective of the second SOT meeting was to prepare the CARPE Topic Team meetings.

At the CARPE "Household Level Activities," "Protected Areas," and "Monitoring" Topic team meetings, CARPE partners, advisors, and associated institutions and individuals from Africa, Europe, and the US took the first steps toward articulating key lessons learned. They

began the process of synthesizing their collective experience into products that would effectively disseminate this new knowledge and lead to development of a rational investment strategy for the next phase of CARPE.

In order to share findings from BSP/CARPE-sponsored activities with CARPE partners and to promote CARPE identity in the Congo Basin region, BSP organized two brown bags in Washington DC and Libreville and produced and disseminated the 1999 CARPE calendar and two series of posters. CARPE operations continued from the field office in Gabon and from the CARPE Focal Point in Cameroon.

Below are specific CARPE highlights from this reporting period.

1. Mapping Biodiversity and Identifying Gaps in the Protected Area System in the Congo Basin

WWF Conservation Science Program

WWF Conservation Science Program completed the mapping of biodiversity from available data, and identified gaps in the protected area system in the Congo Basin.

2. Géographie des relations ville-forêt en Afrique Centrale

Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgique) and University of Maryland

Université Libre de Bruxelles and the University of Maryland completed their study on the city-forest interface in Gabon and regionwide. Final products include a report, a geographic database integrated into ARC VIEW, a project presentation on the internet, and oral presentations to CARPE partners in Washington, DC.

3. Promoting Better Logging Practices in Tropical Forests: A Simulation Analysis of Alternative Regulations

Harvard Institute for International Development (HIID), Harvard University

Under the supervision of World Resources Institute (WRI), a team from HIID is conducting a study whose objectives are as follows:

- evaluate the role of alternative economic instruments (revenue instruments and incentive-based instruments) as tools to promote better logging practices;
- evaluate the economic potential to manage the region's resources in non-extractive ways;
- quantify the empirical significance of the suggestions and concerns expressed by various parties; and
- evaluate the magnitude of the trade-offs between economic and environmental outcomes.

A forest growth model that is able to describe the economic and environmental productivity of Central African forests (e.g., in terms of timber production, carbon storage, and maintenance of forest diversity) will be developed.

4. Sustainable Management of African Mahoganies Through Studies of Regeneration Requirements in Southwestern Central African Republic

Jefferson Hall, Yale University

This project is designed to 1) gain an understanding of the resource requirements of African mahogany seedlings through experimental treatments under controlled and uncontrolled conditions, 2) make silvicultural recommendations based on these findings to improve timber exploitation techniques within the Dzanga-Sangha region, and 3) contribute to the sound management of the Dzanga-Sangha dense forest reserve. During this reporting period, two sets of nursery experiments began. Three reconnaissance missions were undertaken to identify a suitable location for the 200-hectare plot to be used to study the distribution of African mahoganies at the meso-scale. To foster the professional development of students at the University of Bangui (Central African Republic), arrangements were made to finance and supervise master's degree research, and employ graduates of the master's program.

5. Additional Field Testing and Training in a Methodology for Socioeconomic Valuation of Non-timber Forest Products in Cameroon

Centre for the Environment and Rural Transformation, Cameroon

BSP provided financial support to the Centre for the Environment and Rural Transformation (CERUT), a Cameroonian NGO, to strengthen local capacity to conduct socioeconomic valuation of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) among NGOs in Cameroon and to fine-tune and strengthen a methodology for assessing NTFPs consumed and traded on a larger basis. The entry and analysis of the socioeconomic survey data began during the reporting period.

6. Strengthening Indigenous Forest Resource Management Systems and Conservation Practices in the Congo Basin

World Learning

World Learning, through Innovative Resources Management (IRM), is collaborating with BSP and other CARPE partners on a research-action initiative to gather information on the conditions under which local forest resource management systems (LFRMSs) can effectively conserve forest resources outside protected areas. The proposed activities will serve to determine the credibility of LFRMSs and the component beliefs and practices that promote sociocultural and socioeconomic conditions and strengthen long-term biodiversity and forest conservation. During this reporting period, IRM completed the state-of-knowledge review of the community-based natural resource management approaches that have been tested in the Congo Basin region, with a special emphasis on Cameroon. Resource Use Assessments were conducted, in collaboration with local NGOs, at the Djoum and Mount Cameroon research sites. LFRMSs at these sites were described. A study was carried out that was designed to identify market/trade-based incentives and to promote forest conservation at the community level. With the collaboration of local NGOs, CARPE began exercises on participatory mapping of resources to serve as an instrument for strengthening community-based mechanisms for forest conservation, and as a training opportunity for NGOs and communities in the Mont Cameroon and Djoum areas.

7. Long-term Monitoring of Forest Dynamics, Management, and Use of a Cameroonian Lowland Moist Forest

Center for Tropical Forest Science, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

BSP contributed to a study conducted by the Center for Tropical Forest Science (CTFS), in association with the Bioresources Development and Conservation Programme-Cameroon. The objectives of the project are to collect baseline biological data on the Korup Forest's diversity, structure, and dynamics; extract socioeconomic data on the economic valuation of forest goods and services; and pinpoint the determinant of forest use necessary to better understand and improve forest management. During the last field season, 14.5 ha were surveyed, making a total of 47.76 topographically surveyed hectares at the Korup Forest Dynamics Plot (KFDP). A topographical map for the first 25 ha was created. The botanical team determined the species of every tree in the 17.84 ha of the plot; data are being entered.

Current activities include a study on the phenology of the nine most common species in KFD, a seedling demography of *Garckenia conrauna* within the 50-ha plot, and geological work. A study leading to a more complete understanding of the relationship between socioeconomic parameters and dependency on forest resources was initiated at individual, household, and village levels. Training and institutional capacity-building facilitated by CTFS enabled several students from Cameroon and the US to undertake research as part of their master's or doctoral programs.

8. Taxonomy, Ecology, and Ethnobotany of African Rattans

African Rattan Research Programme, Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, England

The overall objective of the work was to assess the role African rattans play in the local economy and to assess the potential for the sustainable development of rattans in agroforestry systems and optimizing their use. Activities completed or under way during the reporting period include the following:

- gathering and presenting baseline data on the ecology and regeneration of rattans in natural forest and farm fallows;
- conducting an ethnobotanical survey of rattans based on extensive field work and interviews;
- gathering and presenting baseline data on existing and potential rattan markets, including socioeconomic importance;
- establishing and maintaining propagation trials and assessing post-propagation cultivation requirements;
- establishing and maintaining field evaluation trials of the most economically important rattan species in on-farm agroforestry situations.

9. Biotic Surveys of Bioko and Mbini, Equatorial Guinea

San Francisco State University (SFSU)

The objectives of the study were to 1) fill major gaps in understanding the biodiversity of the Bioko and Mbini regions through selected surveys, 2) identify genetically distinctive avian populations and increase understanding of the processes important in maintaining biodiversity in the region, 3) evaluate current and future human impacts on the biodiversity of the region, 4) summarize previous information on the biodiversity of the region, and 5) suggest conservation priorities for Equatorial Guinea.

During this reporting period, bird and mammal surveys were completed in three protected areas. Avian blood samples for genetic analysis were collected at each site. The genetic work is currently being conducted by SFSU on four avian target species.

10. Impact of Gold Panning and Associated Human Activities on Wildlife and the Environment in Northeastern Gabon

Sally Lahm, Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropicale, Gabon

BSP is supporting a study that is investigating the impact of gold panning and associated human activities on the wildlife and environment of Minkebe by conducting socioeconomic surveys in gold camps, replicating censuses of animals on forest transects, and assessing

damage to riverine habitat. Additional animal surveys north of the camps toward the Gabon/Cameroon border will augment the previously compiled inventory list of regional animal species.

Disasters and Biodiversity

COLLABORATORS

African Wildlife Foundation, CARE International, Conservation International, International Gorilla Conservation Programme, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, USAID, Wildlife Conservation Society, WWF

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Guinea, Liberia, Rwanda, Uganda

LOP FUNDING

\$100,000

DATES

1998-Ongoing

PURPOSE

The Disasters and Biodiversity project is examining what strategies can be developed or strengthened to help African countries to 1) prepare for disasters, 2) cope with such events, and 3) influence subsequent rehabilitation and redevelopment by mitigating biodiversity impacts and contributing to sustainable development.

DESCRIPTION

One of the greatest disasters threatening Africa today is that of armed conflict. Many countries in sub-Saharan Africa are presently engaged in conflict, emerging from conflict, in a long-term recovery phase, or at risk of conflict. In Africa, war has had devastating effects on human lives, the economy, and the environment. Due to the extreme importance and urgency of this subject, BSP has chosen armed conflict as the type of disaster it will address in this project.

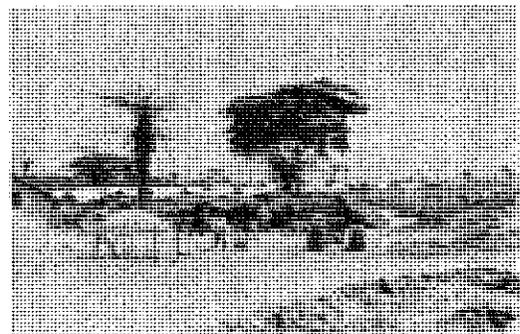
In recent years, a wealth of case studies and workshops has focused on the effects of armed conflict on the environment in Africa. In addition, a plethora of personal anecdotes and guidelines on mitigating the negative environmental impacts of armed conflict has been produced. Despite these efforts, little has been done to compile the available information. Therefore, in Phase I of this project, BSP will undertake a review that will summarize work done in this area to date, identify gaps, and make recommendations for priority activities.

In Phase II, BSP will investigate ways to encourage the conservation, relief, and development sectors to collaborate. Individuals and organizations from these sectors who work in particular countries or regions will attend workshops to discuss on-the-ground problems. Although the workshops will aim to examine issues at the country level, the broader goal of the workshops will be to learn more about how to bring these sectors together and how best to encourage collaboration between them. To obtain background knowledge for these workshops, case studies will be conducted beforehand in each country.

Activities for the final phase of the Disasters and Biodiversity project will be determined during 2000, when results from Phase II have been obtained and priorities for Phase III have become clearer. Phase III is likely to include dissemination of the findings and the lessons learned from this project, produced as short policy papers and/or training manuals and workshops aimed at specific target audiences.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

In order to collect and compile information on the effects of disasters and biodiversity on the environment, BSP has begun a literature review, disseminated questionnaires, conducted an investigative trip to Africa, and participated in conferences. The results of this information gathering effort will be published and made accessible on BSP's web site.



Rebecca Ham

Other activities completed during the first phase of this project include two workshops, one held in February 1999 and the other held in March

1999. The February workshop examined the relationship between armed conflict and biodiversity, brought together US-based conservation NGOs in order to share their experiences working in protected areas in Africa during times of conflict, began a closer collaboration between the conservation and relief sectors, enhanced positive future actions in this area, and determined how BSP can most effectively aid these efforts. A main result of this workshop was catalyzing increased cross-sectoral information sharing and greater

awareness of strategies for communication between sectors.

The March workshop examined security management for conservation NGOs and the relationship between biodiversity conservation and humanitarian assistance in conflict areas, which resulted in suggestions on how the conservation and relief sectors can work together.

Environmental Governance in East and Southern Africa

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe

COLLABORATORS

African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS)

LOP FUNDING

\$152,000

DATES

1994-1999

PURPOSE

To develop a conceptual understanding of environmental governance at the regional, national, and local levels that is based on the priorities and specific situations of East and Southern African countries.

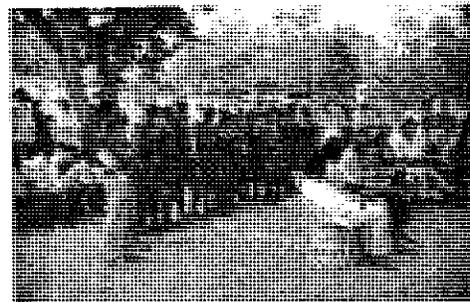
DESCRIPTION

The project is establishing a framework for policy research on environmental governance issues to generate options for policy reform that support sustainable management of natural resources in the region. An extensive literature review was completed, and five commissioned country studies and nine case studies were presented at the International Conference on Environmental Governance in Africa in March 1996. Peer-reviewed country case studies on Lesotho, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Uganda were produced in one volume, which has just been published and will be disseminated. It is expected that the publication will promote an understanding of environmental-management governance in East and Southern Africa. National capacity to undertake policy research and analysis on new and emerging environmental issues will be enhanced in the participating countries.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The report *Governing the Environment: Political Change and Natural Resources Management in East and Southern Africa* was published by the African Centre for Technology Studies in March 1999. It underscores the central role of natural resources in addressing development challenges in Africa, and proposes new policy approaches and institutional innovations.

The main theme of the report revolves around the complex interaction between environmental management and political change. It examines how the making of rules and establishment of institutions for environmental management have been undertaken by state structures with or without the involvement of local people. The authors argue that the emergence of effective and efficient environmental management regimes will depend on how natural resource issues are integrated into political and constitutional reform agendas.



Judy Oglethorpe

Global Climate Change for Africa (GCC)

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Togo, Uganda, Zambia

COLLABORATORS

World Resources Institute, University of Maryland, Michigan State University, Office National de Développement des Forêts (ONADEF), WWF-US, Laboratoire de Télédétection et d'Analyse Régionale/Université Catholique de Louvain, Wildlife Conservation Society, Uganda Ministry of Natural Resources, Les Amis de Terre Togo, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Travaux Publics (ENSTP)

LOP FUNDING

\$1.2 million

DATES

1991-1999

PURPOSE

To help USAID's Africa Bureau design a global climate change effort and fund innovative research to field-test approaches.

DESCRIPTION

The GCC Project has two major components: 1) advise and assist USAID's Africa Bureau's African Global Climate Change design effort and 2) support innovative research grants to test implementation approaches in the field.

Phase I of GCC identified important issues related to Africa's contribution to global climate change, and, more importantly, to the impact of global climate change on the African continent.

The wide dissemination of the report *Central Africa: Global Climate Change and Development* significantly raised the visibility of climate change as a critical problem affecting the future of Africa. In Phase II, innovative research grants were awarded to seven US and African scientists and NGOs addressing key climate-change and land-use issues identified in Phase I.

Phase III is designed to assist the US-supported Country Studies Program to focus on Africa's global climate change adaptation mechanisms related to biodiversity, agriculture and food security, forests, and sea level rise. It includes support to the Ugandan Ministry of Natural Resources for a national workshop on developing a national Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, which was attended by sector technicians and experts, policy analysts, stakeholder groups, and policymakers. WRI will publish a follow-on work on developing adaptation strategies.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

BSP has posted six illustrated papers by GCC grantees on the BCN website (<http://www.bcnet.org/learning/african/gcc1.htm>); these will be transferred to the BSP site when construction is completed in mid-1999. Posting these papers on the web is enabling researchers around the world to access knowledge and results of the GCC project. Through this medium, colleagues can seek out authors for further discussion, expanding their network of contacts and enabling their participation in the examination and solution of critical issues in global climate change and its impact on Africa.

Protected Area Conservation Strategy (PARCS)

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

COLLABORATORS

African Wildlife Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society, WWF

LOP FUNDING

\$2.3 million

DATES

1992-1999

PURPOSE

To strengthen the capacity of protected area authorities to train their managers in order to protect Africa's natural resources more effectively.

DESCRIPTION

This project works through (1) increasing the number of well-trained protected area managers and (2) strengthening the capacity of protected area agencies' natural resource management authorities to train their staff appropriately. Phase I of PARCS consisted of an in-depth assessment of the training priorities in 15 sub-Saharan African countries.

Phase II concentrated on developing responses to the needs identified in Phase I. Focal countries were chosen where programs were instituted to increase the capacity of protected area authority training officers and administrators to develop training plans and pilot in-service training activities. PARCS participants began building a pan-African network of training experts in southern, eastern, and central Africa to maintain and expand the relationships formed by protected area managers during PARCS's three cross-regional workshops. More than 400 protected area managers and staff received training in various skills.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Production and distribution of the French version of *What's Your Role?: Training for Organisational Impact* has been undertaken, mainly targeting institutions and individuals in Central and West Africa.



Transboundary Conservation Areas Study, Southern Africa

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, Angola, Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania

COLLABORATORS

USAID RCSA, WWF SARPO, Zimbabwe Trust, IUCN Mozambique, Peace Parks Foundation

LOP FUNDING

\$342,000

DATES

1998-2000

PURPOSE

To assess opportunities and constraints for transboundary conservation area (TBCA) development in Southern Africa.

DESCRIPTION



Kate Newman

The study comprised the following components: global review of transboundary parks and conservation areas; review of transboundary natural resources in Southern Africa and the ecological rationale for TBCAs; and reviews of sociological, economic, institutional, policy and legal issues affecting opportunities and constraints for TBCA development. The exercise will be used as a primary basis for USAID to 1) develop a proposed set of coordinated program activities leading to the development of a regional strategy on TBCAs, 2) provide important background information for regional discussions on TBCA and wildlife resources, and 3) serve to define an appropriate role for USAID's Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA).

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The study team completed its work by late 1998 through literature reviews, extensive interviews, field visits, and consultative meetings covering 11 countries. The meetings included one with key people from the region (October); a consultation session during the Southern African Sustainable Use Specialist Group's members' meeting (November); a briefing session with USAID RCSA; and a workshop with government, NGO, community, private sector and donor representatives (December). Databases of TBCA contacts and literature were established, and a series of GIS transboundary maps was produced. A draft final report was produced in early 1999 by team leader John Griffin, with input from Mary Rowen, G/ENV. The draft report has been widely circulated to collaborators in Southern Africa, Europe, and the US, and will be finalized, produced, and circulated, along with three interim reports.

Results showed that there is good potential and great interest in the region for this type of development, which is an appropriate tool for promoting ecoregional conservation where priority ecoregions cross international boundaries. Efficiency, equity, and sustainability are key pillars of TBCAs. Stakeholder involvement and partnerships at multiple levels are required, including different institutional and technical sectors. Economic, as well as conservation, incentives are necessary in order to cover the transaction costs of transborder collaboration. Tourism is likely to be a major economic factor. Consumptive use of natural resources by local communities living near international boundaries will continue to play an essential role in their well-being and development.

The study process helped to facilitate regional exchange of experiences and ideas and enhanced awareness, partnerships, and collaboration across borders. This was a valuable experience for stakeholders from all sectors, many of whom are working under relatively isolated conditions where maintaining dialogue across borders has not been easy in the past.

Wildlife Trade in Medicinals in East and Southern Africa and Madagascar

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Botswana, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

COLLABORATORS

TRAFFIC USA and TRAFFIC East and Southern Africa (trade monitoring group of IUCN and WWF)

LOP FUNDING

\$160,000

DATES

1995-1999

PURPOSE

To study wildlife medicinal trade within the region and with outside markets to ensure sustainable levels of trade.

DESCRIPTION

BSP supported TRAFFIC East and Southern Africa (the trade monitoring group of IUCN and WWF) to conduct a study of trade in animal and plant medicinals within East and Southern Africa and Madagascar and trade to outside markets from within the region. An extensive literature review was completed and in-country research studies conducted in 19 countries. The synthesis was published in the second half of 1998. It includes a list of priority animal and plant species and information on trade dynamics, conservation, and national and international markets. The report will help governments and organizations prioritize actions necessary to ensure sustainable trade in wildlife medicinals.

Phase II includes a workshop for health officials, conservationists, and policymakers to finalize recommendations and discuss future actions. The final component of this phase, awareness raising among policymakers, will be carried out in mid-1999.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The workshop was held in December 1998 in Nairobi, Kenya. In a participatory fashion, it reviewed and supplemented the conclusions of the report *Conservation of Medicinal Resources in East and Southern Africa: Searching for a Cure*, and developed a strategy and specific interventions to implement recommendations. Results were presented in the report *Sustainable Utilisation of Wildlife Medicinals in East and Southern Africa: A Challenge for the Health and Natural Resource Sectors*.

Recommended future strategies and interventions for sustainable wildlife medicinals management covered strategy for promoting relevant research, policy framework, and conservation and sustainable use based on inventories. Networking, involvement of stakeholders, and market research were also recommended.

Ban Udyam - Forest Enterprise

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Nepal

ACTIVE GRANTS/CONTRACTS

New ERA, IIE

COLLABORATORS

CARE, WWF-Nepal, Green Com

FUNDING

\$2.5 million
(USAID/Nepal)

DATES

08/01/96-12/31/01

PURPOSE

To contribute to conservation by assisting the Mid-Western Development Region (MWDR) communities and NGOs increase forest-based incomes through provision of technical and market information, which will lead to development of micro-enterprises, improved forest management, and increased marketing of forest products.

DESCRIPTION

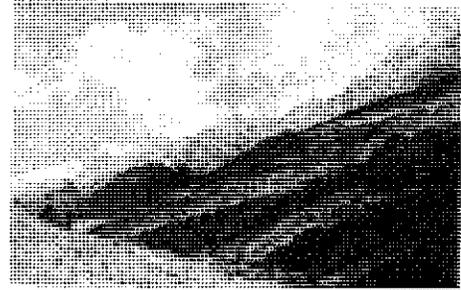
The Ban Udyam (BU) project is committed to helping members of the Environment and Forest Enterprise Activity Project (EFEA) area communities to develop forest-based incomes by improving their direct links to markets and private sector sources of technical and financial support. Implementation of the project provides analyses, pilot activities, training, and technical assistance to community-level groups and individuals, and indirectly supports other assisting INGOs, NGOs, and His Majesty's Government of Nepal agencies with market and extension information.

The activities of the project are guided by commitments to people, sustainability, policy reforms, and participatory decision-making within user groups. Technical assistance is provided to community forest user groups, conservation committees, private forest associations, micro-entrepreneurs, partner EFEA NGOs, and government agencies in the areas of market research and micro-enterprise development. The technical assistance is aimed at providing information and strengthening the user groups

and fostering women's participation in these activities. In addition, Nepali forestry is being strengthened through long-term master's degree training overseas.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

During this reporting period, a number of field and technical assistance activities were accomplished under the project. These include a number of trainings, workshops, and direct technical assistance for partners in the region, including government agencies, NGOs, and community forest user groups.



Stephien Kelleher

In November, BU sponsored a workshop on softwood production, processing, and marketing in collaboration with the Nepal Forest Products Entrepreneurs Association.

In December, a resource persons training was held for 16 participants from District Forest Offices, District Soil Conservation Offices, Women in Development Offices, and CARE field staff. The objective of the workshop was to enhance the understanding of these agencies about NTFPs, their management, and value in community forests. Also in December, a workshop was held in Nepalgunj for more than 35 participants representative of a wide range of NGOs and government agencies in the Banke and Bardiya districts. This workshop covered information and linkage development between NGOs and BU.

In January, two workshops were held, one each in Banke and Bardiya, for potential partner Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs). More than 70 CFUGs participated and provided BU with a chance to develop initial contacts with CFUG partners in these districts. Follow-up selection for specific partners is taking place as a result of the workshops, based on carefully designed selection criteria that take into account ecological, social, and economic factors.

In early February, the BU Team and the BSP Senior Program Officer assisted USAID/Nepal in organizing a study tour of the project area for the USAID Mission Director and other USAID/Nepal staff. Many of the CFUGs that had participated in the recent workshops were visited, and it was clear to study-tour participants that awareness about NTFP management and value had been greatly increased as a result of the workshops.

Two technical assistance contracts were initiated during this time period. One is a review of policy and regulatory constraints to effective community forestry in the EFEA project area. The second contract proposes to increase the capacity of the CFUGs to measure and manage forest resources, and to revise the biomass methodology needed to gather information for USAID/Nepal indicators.

Biodiversity Conservation Prioritization Project (BCPP)

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

India

ACTIVE GRANTS/CONTRACTS

WWF-India

COLLABORATORS

Indian Institute for Public Administration and 42 NGOs

LOP FUNDING

\$590,000

DATES

2/1/95-9/30/99

PURPOSE

To produce a set of biodiversity conservation priorities for India, including sites and strategies; and to produce scale-sensitive, participatory, transparent priority-setting methods that can be used in other countries for meeting obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

DESCRIPTION

The BCPP project supports the development and application of a state-of-the-art methodology for setting biodiversity conservation priorities in a pilot national priority-setting exercise in India. Under this project, BSP works with an informal consortium of Indian NGOs and research institutions under the direction of a Steering Group, led by WWF-India, which includes representatives from the participating NGOs, BSP, and government. The project Steering Group ensures that the process occurs in a transparent and participatory manner, and that its participatory priority-setting methodology can be applied in other countries to meet

conservation requirements under the Biodiversity Convention.

BCPP considers biological and social information about existing and proposed protected areas and forest reserves, as well as the coverage of medicinal plants and wild crop relatives of agricultural importance in and around protected areas and state forest lands. The project produces specific action plans for 50 local sites, analyzes the information from 8 "focal" states to recommend policy changes, and concludes with a national-level workshop to discuss and finalize its recommendations on priority geographic sites, priority species, and strategies for conservation.

A series of publications are being developed, including a final BCPP recommendations document. The conservation information management and database at the Indira Gandhi Conservation Monitoring Centre at WWF-India (an affiliate of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre) has been updated.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Following the National Workshop held in April 1998, editorial work on the final written products began. The Government of India included BCPP outputs in its submission for the fourth Conference of the Parties for the Convention on Biological Diversity. The final BCPP book, summarizing the outcomes of the project's work, is expected to be published in 1999.

KEMALA

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Indonesia

ACTIVE GRANTS/CONTRACTS

Multiple

COLLABORATORS

Multiple

LOP FUNDING

\$10 million
(USAID/Indonesia)

DATES

08/01/96-12/30/01

PURPOSE

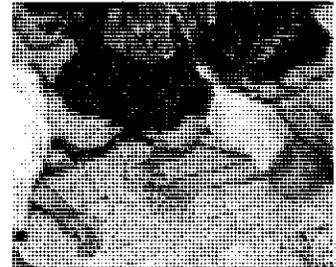
To promote greater stakeholder participation in decisions about planning, management, use, and monitoring of natural resources; to promote natural resource-based industries using best practices for land-use management and production processes; to improve policy development and implementation; and to strengthen institutional capacity for biodiversity conservation.

DESCRIPTION

Under its KEMALA Program, BSP develops activities within USAID/Indonesia's NRM2 program that link individuals and organizations across Indonesia and build coalitions that are concerned with natural resource management. BSP builds on nascent coalitions that form naturally around shared, rather than donor-driven, concerns, including coalitions currently emerging around joint management of protected areas, community-based land-use planning, recognition of traditional silvicultural regimes, community-based mapping, and biological resource-based business development. To enhance the information base of these coalitions, BSP provides monitoring and analytical support, as well as specific technical and administrative assistance. In implementing the KEMALA Program, BSP uses grants, training, direct technical assistance, travel grants, and public outreach. KEMALA grantees function as KEMALA partners, sharing information and guiding KEMALA direction through an annual forum.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The spirit of democratic reform is moving through Indonesian government offices, especially the Ministry of Forestry, and Indonesian NGOs are achieving unprecedented success in getting concerns of traditional communities heard by both the Government of Indonesia and public alike.



Frank Momborg

KEMALA partners LATIN and ELSAM have recommended changes to ensure that natural resources management becomes more equitable and sustainable into the future. The recommendations are based on continuous efforts of working with local, field-based NGOs, who are, in turn, working alongside traditional communities. LATIN published their booklet *Returning the Forests to the People*, outlining numerous recommendations of how forest management can become genuinely community-based rather than run for and by large commercial monopolies. ELSAM has completed case studies in 15 sites throughout Indonesia that point to the legal options available to ensure that local communities can regain access to management of their natural resources. In the process, the NGOs are learning valuable lessons in how to improve their own accountabilities to these local communities.

The first meeting of traditional *adat* leaders from across Indonesia was held in Jakarta in March 1999. It was attended by more than 250 *adat* leaders from 25 provinces, including 25 women. It was organized and facilitated by 13 NGOs, with KEMALA partners playing a leading role. Participants met to develop a common strategy to win back the rights of traditional communities to land, sea, and natural resources. During the week, many of them began to realize that they had more in common than they had at first thought. This became especially apparent among the women, who made a 12-point declaration. They were able to highlight specific

actions that the Government of Indonesia could take to improve their living conditions and prevent continued environmental destruction.

The representatives debated such critical issues as forestry, coastal resources, plantations, international advocacy, women, and land/sea tenure. These were followed by sessions with government representatives, a delegation to the House of Representatives and to the National Commission on Human Rights. A new Alliance of Traditional Communities (*Masyarakat Adat*) was formed with a mission "to promote an understanding of an holistic view of nature and ourselves, that includes protection and sustainable use now and in the future."

Conflict Resolution Training

Conflicts over use of land and sea in Indonesia are increasing and are alarming NGOs. To face this challenge, they decided to initiate innovative training in conflict resolution. During a one-week workshop, KEMALA partners used actual field experiences to outline what they believed would be a successful training curriculum. The results were then incorporated into a training manual that is being field-tested with NGOs. The basic goal of this training is to see conflicts as advancement opportunities and as ways to strengthen communities' positions in dealing with conflict. Important elements of this training include basic values and assumptions underlying conflicts; roots of conflicts over natural resources, including government policies; and strategies, tactics, and techniques for managing and resolving conflicts. Feedback has shown that training increases communities' abilities to cope with conflict by presenting them with various conflict resolution techniques. KEMALA is negotiating with an NGO consortium to deliver the training to a wide range of NGOs throughout Indonesia.

Peoples, Forests & Reefs (PeFoR)*

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, India, Panama, Peru, Bolivia

ACTIVE GRANTS/CONTRACTS

multiple

COLLABORATORS

multiple

LOP FUNDING

\$2.0 million

DATES

10/1/93-9/30/98

PURPOSE

To strengthen biodiversity conservation by assessing, developing, and promoting ways to secure recognition of indigenous peoples' tenure and community-based natural resource planning as a means of protecting forests and reefs.

DESCRIPTION

PeFoR focuses on biologically diverse areas where traditional ethnic identities and institutions are still strong. By working with indigenous peoples to manage biodiversity, PeFoR supports the rights of indigenous peoples and promotes sustainable economic and social development. In critical regions throughout the world, PeFoR promotes low-cost mapping technologies in response to requests for assistance in mapping community lands. PeFoR offers technical assistance to indigenous resource managers, strengthens indigenous peoples' capacity to communicate effectively with government agencies, and supports appropriate policy reforms. Lessons learned are shared with hundreds of NGOs and indigenous peoples' organizations through apprenticeship programs, workshops, and publications.

* Global program.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

During this reporting period, PeFoR supported field activities in Indonesia and Philippines, as well as activities designed to disseminate lessons learned.

In Indonesia, Yayasan Karya Social Pancur Kasih (PK) is mentoring 10 small, local NGOs to enhance their capacity to carry out mapping, strategic planning, and community organizing. These NGOs are working with communities to conserve forests and aquatic biodiversity in Sumatra, Central Kalimantan, East Kalimantan, South Kalimantan, and Central Sulawesi. PK is assisting them through such techniques as participatory site assessment, mapping, and biological inventories; community conservation agreements; and workshops.

In the Philippines, Friends of the Earth and its local NGO partners continued work on a book analyzing the impact of the Ancestral Domain policies. The Philippine Association for Intercultural Development (PAFID) continued to use equipment supplied by PeFoR to map Ancestral Domains in Luzon, Mindoro, Palawan, and Mindanao.

Consultants began work on a sector review of the Indigenous Peoples and Biodiversity sector, including opportunities for investment, lessons learned, and recommendations to donors.

Center for Support of Native Lands finalized its draft publication to disseminate lessons learned from work in Central America, Bolivia, and Cameroon. WWF-

US neared completion of the proceedings from its July 1998 workshop, documenting lessons learned from WWF's work with indigenous peoples. WWF-

US also continued to develop guidance derived from working with indigenous peoples in the context of ecoregional conservation, through pilot work in Bolivia.



Mac Chapin

1995-96 Conservation Impact Grants Competition

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Various

COLLABORATORS

Various

FUNDING

\$400,000 (G/ENR)

DATES

11/01/95-09/30/99

PURPOSE

To fund applied, field-based research and analysis relevant to the conservation of biological diversity in selected USAID-assisted countries worldwide.

DESCRIPTION

BSP's Conservation Impact Grants program is committed to building local capacity to conduct biodiversity conservation-related research, providing scientifically significant results, and disseminating these results to achieve wider conservation impact. Since its inception in 1991, BSP's grants program has awarded small grants of up to \$15,000 on a competitive basis to researchers in USAID-assisted countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Madagascar, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, and the Near East. The approach to research topics has ranged from ecological to economic, anthropological, and sociopolitical. See Table 1 for a complete list of 1996 Conservation Impact Grants.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

During this six-month reporting period, 10 grants were completed, bringing the total number of completed grants to 17. The remaining 13 grants have end dates that extend through September 1999.

Table 1. 1996 Conservation Impact Grants

Project	Life of Project Funding (U.S. \$)	Project Dates*
AFRICA		
Central African Republic		
Recherche Participative sur les Impacts de L'Immigration dans les Zones de Bayanga, Salo et Nola	5,714	1996-97
Ghana		
The Integration of Local Non-Timber Forest Product Use with the Conservation of Kyabobo Range National Park, Volta Region	14,970	1996-98
Kenya		
Biodiversity Utilization by Local Communities: Impact of Butterfly Farming on Wild Populations of Butterflies and on Community Attitudes to Forest Conservation (Arabuko-Sokoke Forest)	7,360	1996-98
Gamebird Hunting-Development of Management Systems in Kenya and its Promotion in Wildlife Utilization	14,400	1996-99
Village-based Larviculture and Stock Enhancement of Sea Cucumbers (<i>Echinodermata: Holothuroidea</i>)	15,000	1997-99
Uganda		
An Assessment of Granting Local People Access to the Use of Baindi Impenetrable Forest National Park Resources as a Means of Reducing Illegal and Unsustainable Harvest of the Resources	4,500	1997-99
The Role of Satellite Lakes in Conservation of Fish Species Diversity in Lake Kyoga Basin	15,000	1996-99
Zambia		
Community-Based Fisheries Management in Bangweulu: Who Should be Involved and in Which Way?	15,000	1996-97
ASIA		
Bangladesh		
Utilization, Management and Monitoring of Aquatic Biological Resources in a Wetland Ecosystem in Central Bangladesh	15,000	1997-97
India		
Impact of Mangrove Biodiversity on Associated Fishery Resources and Fishers Income	15,000	1996-99
The Ganges River Dolphin - A tool for Baseline Assessment of Biological Diversity in River Ganges	15,000	1996-99
Determining the Causes for Low Regeneration in the Banj Oak Forests of the Central Himalaya	11,520	1996-98
Social and Ecological Impacts of Timber Rights in Himachal Pradesh	11,975	1996-97
Nepal		
Ecology and Conservation of Grassland Birds in Lowland Nepal	13,670	1996-98
Necessity of Analyzing the Impact of Protected Areas on Local Economy for Conservation of Biodiversity	7,000	1996-98
Sri Lanka		
Impact of Export-Oriented Human Disturbances and the Corallivorous Crown-of-Thorns Starfish (<i>Acanthaster planci</i>) on Biodiversity of Selected Coral Reefs in Sri Lanka	15,000	1996-99

*Based on calendar year

Table 1. (Continued)

Project	Life of Project Funding (U.S. \$)	Project Dates*
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		
Brazil		
Inventory, Monitoring and Conservation of a High-Diversity Fauna by Traditional People in the Upper Juru. Extractive Reserve, Acre	14,739	1996-99
Monitoring Hunting Impact on Large Vertebrates in Forest Fragments in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest	7,410	1996-97
Sustentabilidade do Extrativismo de Quelônios no Parque Nacional do Jaú	11,300	1997-99
Guatemala		
Registro de la Actividad de Cacería en Temporada de Extracción de Resina de Chicle en la Zona Central de la Reserva de la Biosfera Maya, Petén	15,000	1996-98
Guyana		
An Exploration of Indigenous Forest Management in Iwokrama, Guyana in Conjunction with an Environmental Literacy Campaign	14,820	1997-99
Haiti		
Correlation of the Percentage of Coral Cover vs. Population Density of the Rock-boring lucunter (<i>Urchin echinometra</i>) on Selected Reefs	14,880	1996-98
Honduras		
Utilización y Manejo de Especies Medicinales de la Comunidad Indígena Pech/Misquito de las Marias (Batiltuk), Reserva de la Biósfera de Río Plátano	15,000	1996-99
Mexico		
Improving Grazing Management and Biodiversity in Mountain Meadows through Bioeconomic Modelling	14,962	1996-98
Silviculture for Sustainable Tropical Forestry in the Mayan Ejidos of Quintana Roo	15,000	1996-98
Evaluación Ecológica y Social de la Introducción de Carpas como Especie de Cultivo Dulceacuícola en Pozas Someras del Sistema alto Lermo	14,900	1996-98
Paraguay		
Monitoring Hunting Impact on Vertebrates in the Mbaracayu Reserve	14,940	1996-99
Peru		
Amazonian Avian Game: Use and Conservation	10,058	1996-99
Protección de los Bosques de Polylepys, mediante la participación comunal activa con generación de ingresos como incentivos económicos para la comunidad en el Abra de Malaga, departamento del Cusco	15,000	1996-99
Campesino Ownership and Conservation of the Vicuña: An Analysis of Management Techniques in the Salinas-Aguada Blanca National Reserve, Arequipa	14,997	1996-99
Total	389,115	

*Based on calendar year

The Integration of Local Non-Timber Forest Product Use with the Conservation of Kyabobo Range National Park, Volta Region

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Ghana

FUNDING

\$14,970 (G/Bureau)

DATES

12/01/96-7/31/98

PURPOSE

See page 37.

DESCRIPTION

Involvement of local communities in governmental conservation initiatives was a relatively new phenomenon in Ghana when this project was first initiated in late 1996. In fact, the Ghana Wildlife Department had changed its policy toward a community-oriented approach but had little previous experience with implementation. Kyabobo Range National Park (KRNP) was the first national park where local collaboration was central from the start. The park had considerable implications for conservation in Ghana since it served as a role model for the development of future protected areas and helped ensure that local people were integrated into the planning and management stages. This project aimed to investigate how local needs can be integrated into the management of a biologically diverse national park through integrating local non-timber forest product (NTFP) use into the management practices of KRNP.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The project carried out five research components: biological surveying, resource utilization, bushmeat research, integrating land management practices, and needs assessment.

1. Biological survey

The project established a permanent monitoring system for the park, based on six transects, covering all major habitats and land-use types. Baseline data has been collected along these transects and are being regularly monitored to provide comparative data essential for guiding management decisions.

2. Resource utilization research

To ensure sustainable use and conservation of natural resources in and around KRNP, an assessment of resources used by local communities was conducted. Although farming is the main activity in the area, the study has demonstrated that many economic, social, and cultural needs of local people are closely linked to the resources contained in and around KRNP. The work conducted has documented these resources and their importance.

3. Bushmeat research

This resource utilization research involved an in-depth bushmeat survey, which concluded that large mammals are still being commercially exploited in an unsustainable manner. Small mammals are important for small-scale consumption. Bushmeat consumption is much higher nearer to the park. In areas further from the park, where there are few larger mammals, there is less hunting. In these areas, substitutes for bushmeat have become common and accepted. This research will help minimize the negative impacts of the park, particularly in terms of limited access to resources.

4. Integrating land management practices

Resource use and biological research have been integrated, along with information from the needs assessment sessions, to identify land management practices that could be beneficial to both biodiversity conservation and local communities. These include sacred groves, hunting taboos, swidden agriculture, and an environmental sub-committee. This analysis has already led to their integration into the policy and practices of the management of KRNP. This research can form the basis for ecosystem-based management.

5. Needs assessment sessions

Community needs assessment sessions were initiated in conjunction with the studies conducted on local resource use. The concerns of the villagers varied between locations. In seven villages, the main concerns included access to sacred groves and ensuring that members of the villages were employed by the Wildlife Department. There were also concerns about the lack of availability of certain resources

and the problems of exotic plants. Issues concerning the potential for projects that could support local farming practices (e.g., cassava processing, road improvement) were also discussed. In two of the villages, farmland inside the park was a significant issue. The needs-assessment sessions have provided vital information for the Wildlife Department and have helped to develop an increased understanding

between the many parties involved in the park. This understanding, combined with other conservation efforts around KRNP, will realize the vision of sustainable ecosystems and local communities.

Monitoring Hunting Impact on Vertebrates in the Mbaracayu Reserve, Paraguay

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Paraguay

FUNDING

\$14,940 (G/Bureau)

DATES

11/01/96-01/31/99

PURPOSE

See page 37.

DESCRIPTION

More than 50 percent of the forested area in the neotropics designated with protected status is currently contained in Indigenous Reserves. Many other conservation units also experience significant hunting by local people. Therefore, it is imperative that we learn to monitor accurately the impact of human hunting in protected areas, and develop methodologies that can incorporate local people into all phases of data collection so that they might understand and participate in developing conservation policy. This project hopes to accomplish this goal in the Mbaracayu Forest Reserve, working with the local Ache population. The principal investigator hopes to 1) determine if hunting patterns of the Ache people inside the reserve are sustainable and 2) train Ache researchers to monitor vertebrate densities inside the reserve in the absence of any direct supervision so that long-term monitoring can become a standard practice in the reserve.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The results of the project can be used as a guideline for predicting whether current harvest rates will be sustainable over several years, but should be complemented with monitoring and adaptive management to ensure that steady state harvest models do not result in prey population decline due to unforeseen factors in the models. The current analysis suggests that Ache hunting does not threaten the population of any important game species in Mbaracayu. This is true, except that localized depletion near the Ache settlement can be shown for some species. A five-year monitoring project begun in 1994 will allow for an assessment of whether projections from equilibrium "Source-Sink" (SS) modeling are useful and whether they fully capture the dynamics between Ache predators and their prey in the Mbarachayu Reserve.

Determining the Causes for Low Regeneration in the Banj Oak Forests of the Central Himalaya, India

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

India

FUNDING

\$11,520 (G/Bureau)

DATES

09/01/96-10/31/98

PURPOSE

See page 37.

DESCRIPTION

Banj oak is ecologically and socioeconomically the most important tree in the Central Himalaya. Ecologically, it is the dominant species of the region. The presence of banj oak is known to benefit the growth of many other species while its absence results in species-poor forest stands. The evergreen nature of this tree and the production of acorns in winter make this tree an essential source of firewood and winter cattle fodder in this area. The altitudinal belt occupied by banj is heavily populated by humans and their cattle, and this tree is lopped for its branches and leaves. Fertilizer from banj leaf litter is an essential input in sustaining Himalayan agriculture. Repeated heavy lopping often causes mortality of this tree, and the decline of banj forest stands has been reported for over half a century. Excessive utilization has subjected banj forests to stress and opened them to invasion by chir pine by creating understory light, nutrient and moisture conditions that favor pine.

Though excessive forest use by villagers is widely accepted as being the chief cause of banj forest decline, the effect of varying levels of human disturbance is not well understood. The assumption is that forest decline is related to disturbance in a linear manner, and precluding human activity from the banj forest would help maintain maximum forest vigor and regeneration potential. However, it has also been observed that moderate levels of human disturbance create light conditions most conducive to banj oak regeneration. No studies, though, have been published that provide a more mechanistic understanding of the relationship between banj regeneration and human disturbance. The

researcher hoped to fill this knowledge gap by determining the factors responsible for the low survival of banj oak regeneration and to develop improved plantation techniques for this species. Chronic biotic disturbance changes the light, moisture, and nutrient availability and causes physical damage to the seedlings. The relative importance of these variables and their interactions will be determined in order to understand the regeneration failure of this oak.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE



Rajesh Thadani

In determining factors that lead to low oak regeneration, plots were set up in 16 forest stands along a gradient of human disturbance. Seeds and seedlings of banj oak, tilonj oak, and chir pine were planted in these plots to understand regeneration dynamics. A survey of 30 forest

stands was also carried out to understand natural regeneration patterns. Physiological and anatomical measurements were made on oak seedlings. Villagers were questioned about forest decline, and their attitudes toward forest protection were determined.

Excessive human disturbance results in increased understory light levels and exposed mineral soils through the removal of leaf litter. These conditions are conducive for chir pine to invade stands formally occupied by oak. Of the two oak species, tilonj is more competitive on open sites with bare mineral soils as banj acorns do not germinate under such conditions, and banj seedlings cannot utilize high light levels as well as tlonj. However, the susceptibility of tilonj to drought stress and restricted acorn dispersal from the parent tree usually prevents tilonj from colonizing these sites. While the number of banj seedlings was similar both in degraded and undisturbed forests, the recruitment of seedlings is higher in forests with low disturbance levels. Heavy grazing and pruning of the tops arrest

regeneration in the seedling size-class in heavily degraded forests, artificially raising seedling counts. In degraded sites, seedlings are short and bushy and seedling morphology can often be used as an indicator of disturbance.

Canopy structure and composition are also greatly influenced by disturbance.



Rajesh Thadani

Villagers function as individuals, and there is often no collective thought governing their actions. The intervention of an outside agency, such as an NGO, is usually conducive to helping villagers establish strong forest protection committees. These committees are able to enforce rules that lead to collective ownership and arrest forest degradation. The lack of community ownership leads to a tragedy of the commons scenario. In recent years, active work by NGOs have helped establish defined user groups for better management of village forests in some areas. Such interventions as the introduction of alternative energy sources, more efficient cooking techniques, and encouragement to reduce cattle number, have also helped. While in some areas forest degradation has been halted, many problems persist. Local participation in forest conservation seems to be the only viable method to protect the forests.

Thus, while the lack of banj oak regeneration can be explained in biological terms, solutions lie in social interventions. Modification in the types of disturbance and a reduction in its intensity can lead to conditions conducive to banj oak regeneration and establishment in the forests of the Central Himalaya.

Promoting Biodiversity Conservation in Ukraine: Conservation Initiatives Grants Program

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Ukraine

LOP FUNDING

\$230,000.00
(USAID/Kyiv)

DATES

09/09/96-03/01/98

PURPOSE

To provide nationwide support through \$500-\$5,000 grants to individuals, scientific organizations, and environmental non-governmental organizations pursuing applied, *in situ* conservation initiatives in existing or potential protected areas. This program, supported by the use of selected Ukrainian-comprised advisory groups, is designed to raise awareness of biodiversity issues.

DESCRIPTION

Principal activities under this component include broad dissemination of a request for proposals, development of selection criteria to review and identify appropriate proposals, formation of a Ukrainian Grants Advisory Panel, selection and awarding of grants, notification and comment to grant recipients and other applicants, and hosting of a symposium to discuss the results of grant-supported work.

For consideration by BSP, Conservation Initiatives Grant proposals must be action-oriented, with the objective of producing solutions to specific biodiversity conservation challenges in existing or potential protected areas of Ukraine. Major eligible topics include 1) management and utilization of the biological resources of protected areas, 2) maintenance of *in situ* biological diversity outside protected areas, 3) cultural and social influences on biodiversity conservation, and 4) economic and other incentives for biodiversity conservation.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

During this reporting period, most activities associated with the Conservation Initiatives Grants Program were completed. The program had a number of significant direct and indirect conservation benefits.

To observers and participants, the grants program was unusual in terms of the degree of openness, transparency and fairness of its procedures and process; and it provided for the Ukrainian participants a tangible example of the strength and value of a democratic process and open procedures in action. The call for proposals was widely disseminated through a variety of media. Selection criteria were published in advance. The review of grants was discussed openly by an Advisory Panel of recognized Ukrainian experts, and a list of final recipients was published. Unsuccessful applicants were sent personal letters summarizing the comments received and the rationale behind their rejection to ensure transparency and strengthen future attempts at grant solicitations.

Close collaboration with a carefully selected Advisory Panel of Ukrainian experts was particularly fruitful. Created by BSP, the Advisory Panel was established to follow and advise BSP from selection of grants, through project implementation, to a round table discussion of grant-recipient results. The Advisory Panel included eight well-known specialists from different geographical areas of Ukraine. Members of the Panel represented governmental structures, the scientific community, and nongovernmental organizations, and were considered widely knowledgeable and well-versed in issues of biodiversity conservation in Ukraine.

Both Advisory Panel members and grantees have appreciated the potential long-term benefits of the cross-sectoral working relationships and interactions that BSP promoted through this process. During the round table discussion held in March 1998, grantees and advisers remarked on what was a unique approach to awarding

grants in Ukraine, and suggested that the Conservation Initiatives Grants Program be considered a model for other programs in international assistance. The Voice of America aired a 30-minute program in Ukraine devoted to BSP's Grants Program, during which highly appreciative comments were expressed by a number of interviewed grantees and Advisory Panel experts.

Some notable examples of the conservation impact achieved by the Conservation Initiatives Grants include the following:

- In the Carpathian region, the leadership of the nongovernmental society "Karpats'ka Shkola" ("Carpathian School"), joint efforts of several scientific institutions and regional environmental bodies, and support of local communities have led to the creation of a long-awaited specially-protected area on the Ukrainian border with Poland and Slovakia--Nadsyanskii Regional Landscape Park. Matched by adjoining protected areas in Poland and Slovakia, Nadsyanskii Regional Landscape Park is an important component of Eastern Carpathians, the only European, multilateral International Biosphere Reserve in existence.
- In cooperation with a range of stakeholders, the Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds raised public awareness and brought high visibility to a previously under-appreciated, but unique biodiversity site--Dzharylgach Island and Bay in the northern Black Sea, resulting in the closure of unregulated public hunting and the consideration of the area as a potential protected area. As a result of BSP-supported research and outreach, a regional park is about to be created, with broad support gaining momentum for the creation of a national park. Recently, a letter signed by some 900 local people was circulated to officials in support of protected status. The project has also contributed to Dzharylgach becoming a focal point of interest for a recently initiated World Bank-supported project on the Black Sea-Azov Sea ecological corridor.

- A simple, scientifically-based effort undertaken by an NGO in the city of Uman led to the re-introduction of an endangered species of fish into Kremenchug water reservoir where it had become locally extinct. The procedures used for artificial cultivation have led to strong interest among fishery authorities in Ukraine for potential adoption of the methodology for industrial fisheries efforts.
- With BSP support in finalizing the results of pertinent research and preparing necessary legal documents, the boundaries of the Medobory Nature Reserve in the Ternopolskii Region were expanded to include additional areas of steppe grassland with unique biodiversity previously threatened by unregulated livestock grazing.
- The Odessa Socio-Ecological Union led an initiative to prepare a feasibility study for a rehabilitation of important wetlands in the Karagol Gulf ecosystem (located in the delta area of the Dnister River). The feasibility study focuses on the development of a methodology for renewing water exchange between the Gulf and wetlands, which would restore and preserve important fisheries and bird habitat.
- The Interagency Laboratory for the Scientific Basis for Nature Conservation (a joint body of the National Academy of Science and the Ministry of Ukraine for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety) prepared a background plan for the development of a network for scientific and management exchange between specially protected areas located on the borders of Ukraine and its neighboring states.
- In addition, support was provided to publish a news bulletin on biodiversity conservation and a scientific biodiversity journal, which received immediate and favorable recognition among Ukrainian scientists and governmental agencies.

During a round table discussion in March 1998, where Advisory Panel experts and BSP grantees jointly evaluated the results of the projects supported, successes achieved, and lessons

learned, it was recommended that additional support be provided to selected grantees to highlight the results of the Grants Program. Two publications, including some additional research to ensure completeness, were funded: 1) a guidebook to Specially Protected Areas in the Transcarpathian Region, prepared in cooperation with the Carpathian NGO, Ecological Club Carpathians, and a local department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine (Minekobezepeki); and 2) the publication *Biodiversity of the Jarilgach: Current State and Ways for Conservation*, which resulted from the efforts of a coalition of groups, including the Institute of Zoology, The Black Sea (Chernomorsky) Biosphere Reserve, and the Institute of Botany (led by the BSP grantee, Ukrainian Union for Bird Conservation). In addition, two issues of the scientific journal *Nature Conservation in Ukraine*, successfully developed as a result of previous BSP funding, were supported. Responding to Advisory Panel and grantee requests, another issue of this journal, which will be devoted to the overall results of BSP's grants program in Ukraine, is under way.

Several publications in the US and Europe have featured the results of BSP-funded projects in Ukraine; among them, *Russian Conservation News*, No.16, Summer 1998 (a US-based journal) and *Network 2* (Networking positive environmental news), Spring 1999 (a UK-based publication).

Also during this reporting period, technical and financial reports on completed projects were evaluated and approved, and efforts were undertaken to help grantees promote and build upon the results of their projects. A number of recommendations were provided to grantees on successful projects to assist them in seeking further funding, and technical advice was given on the best ways to continue their work. Finally, information has been gathered and initial steps have been taken to highlight the results of the Ukraine project on BSP's website.

Promoting Biodiversity Conservation in Ukraine: Crimean Conservation Needs Assessment

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Ukraine

COLLABORATORS

Crimea Republic State Committee of
Environment Natural Resources Protection

LOP FUNDING

\$445,000.00
(USAID/Kyiv)

DATES

09/09/96-09/30/99

PURPOSE

To facilitate a Conservation Needs Assessment Workshop focusing on the improvement of *in situ* biodiversity conservation in Crimea through a broad-based, multisectoral (government, non-governmental, and scientific organizations), and multidisciplinary (biologists, economists, social scientists, policy and institutional specialists) process. The main objectives established for the Conservation Needs Assessment were as follows:

- Identify concrete, practical ways to improve *in situ* biodiversity conservation, based on scientific knowledge and informed participation by all concerned stakeholders;
- Generate both geographic and thematic priorities to focus attention on *where* biodiversity conservation work should be carried out and *what* concrete conservation actions must be taken; and
- Reflect concern not only for high species richness and endemism but also diversity of representative habitats.

DESCRIPTION

The Biodiversity Conservation Program facilitated a first-of-its-kind geographic and thematic priority-setting exercise in Crimea, Ukraine to establish conservation priorities for the peninsula. At a time of enormous social and economic transformation in Ukrainian society associated with gaining independence from the former Soviet Union, biodiversity is under

increasing threat as past protection regimes are in flux, financial support is scarce, and pressure for privatization increases. The priority-setting exercise, comprised of a major workshop, preparatory meetings, and consultations facilitated by BSP, brought together more than 100 representatives of key government agencies, scientific institutions, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to identify geographic priorities and recommendations for future conservation actions in Crimea. Fifty specific priority sites, totaling 598,130 ha, were identified as potential conservation areas deserving conservation status. These areas were mapped, along with the distribution of major taxonomic groups and existing protected areas. Recommendations were also generated for conservation actions applicable to all of Crimea, to major habitat zones, and to specific sites. In addition to its contribution to conservation in Ukraine, the exercise, with its emphasis on multidisciplinary and multisectoral participation, open deliberations, and transparent decision-making, was as much a demonstration of a democratic process and values as a conservation initiative.

The Crimean Regional Project has the following sub-components:

- pre-workshop planning meetings and consultations (beginning July 1997)
- public workshop to discuss geographic and thematic priorities for biodiversity conservation in Crimea (November 1997)
- formation of a post-workshop publication group and meeting (July 1998)
- production of a dual language (Russian/English) publication with 13 maps (Summer 1999)

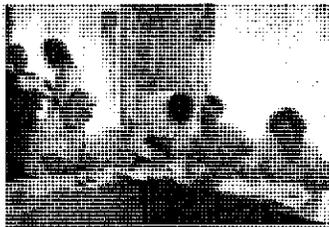
ACTIVITIES UPDATE

After a year and a half of preparatory work, representatives of national and Crimean governmental agencies, NGOs, and scientists

met November 11-14, 1997, in Gurzuf, Crimea, to discuss the current status, threats, and necessary actions for biodiversity conservation in Crimea. The Crimean Conservation Needs Assessment Workshop involved more than 100 participants, about half of whom were invited by BSP. The Workshop was deliberately open and accessible to the public; public transportation was provided to the capital city of Simferopol. The Workshop focused on identifying geographic priorities (i.e. *where* conservation activity should be undertaken), as well as thematic priorities (i.e. *what* actions should be undertaken).

The Workshop is widely recognized in Crimea as a major step in biodiversity conservation that inspired many new and constructive contacts and initiatives between representatives across sectors and regions. Along with the Workshop proceedings, a series of maps identifying specific areas of biological importance in Crimea will be published and should form the basis of planning efforts, conservation activities, and research priorities for the future. The maps identify consensus priority areas for *in situ* biodiversity conservation in Crimea. Thematic recommendations will focus at three levels: recommendations relevant to specific sites (areas of biological importance), recommendations relevant to one of 10 major habitat zones and sub-zones in Crimea, and Crimea-wide recommendations.

As with the Grants Program, the results of the Workshop comprised one of the tangible outputs of the meeting.



Bruce Leighty

Several Workshop participants told BSP representatives that they were so impressed by BSP's methodology that they intended to use it as a pattern for upcoming meetings of their own. For example, several representatives from the Institute of Botany expressed interest in using BSP's methodology for establishing botanical research priorities over the next five years. A number of articles acknowledging USAID and BSP support were published after the Workshop in Ukrainian/Crimean newspapers and journals. Several pieces devoted to the Workshop,

including a 30-minute program, were broadcast on Crimean and Ukrainian television. Recently, BSP got a request from the State Committee of Environmental Protection of Crimea to use the working materials, published prior to the Workshop, as the basis of the Committee's Report on the State of Environment of Crimea.

During this reporting period, constant support and advice were provided in order to strengthen the growing network of contacts among the BSP project participants in Crimea. Technical advice (e.g., on legal and fundraising matters), was provided to new conservation NGOs that emerged in response to the Gurzuf Workshop. A particularly close partnership was developed with an association that was organized following the Workshop, known as Promoting Biodiversity Conservation in Crimea - Gurzuf 97. The NGO includes a multisectoral group of workshop participants. Regular discussions were held and assistance was provided for planning the future conservation activities of this association, which will be dedicated to following up on the Workshop's recommendations.

As a result of BSP's networking and advice, Tatiana Shamanaeva, a television journalist from Crimea, and Ivan Rysev, an adviser on BSP's Grants Program from Odessa, were invited to participate in an Environmental Journalism Workshop of the Halki Institute for journalists of the Black Sea Region.

A Ukrainian working group was formed at the conclusion of the Workshop to compile proceedings and follow up on recommendations with BSP guidance. These proceedings are currently under way with plans to publish final Workshop results in a dual-language publication (Russian and English with Executive Summaries in Ukrainian and possibly Tatarian) in the summer of 1999. The publication will include multiple maps of the distribution of major taxonomic groups, habitat zones, and suggested priority conservation sites. A presentation on conservation priority-setting in Crimea is planned for the upcoming annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology in June 1999.

Bolivian Pantanal

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Bolivia

COLLABORATORS

WWF/Bolivia, Noel Kempff Mercado Natural History Museum, PROCESO, CABI

FUNDING

\$350,000.00
(USAID/LAC Bureau)

DATES

09/01/98-09/30/00

PURPOSE

This project primarily focuses on 1) strengthening local capacity in indigenous and non-indigenous communities to initiate a process of gradual inclusion of local stakeholders in management of protected areas carried out by the Bolivian nongovernmental organization (NGO) PROCESO; and 2) carrying out complementary biological research to allow a comprehensive assessment of the natural resources for future planning and management with the Noel Kempff Mercado Natural History Museum. The project funds park guard training for the Bolivian organization CABI.

DESCRIPTION

(See Purpose)

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Most of the work with the communities is being carried out during the dry season between April and November 1999. Due to the difficulty of working during the rainy season, only a very small part of the project has been executed during the first six months (October 1998-March 1999). At this point, the response from communities and their representatives (CIDOB, CPESC, CANOB, OICH) has been strongly positive and receptive of the project. One of the main challenges of this component is to steer a clear course for objectives that incorporate indigenous priorities that have a strong link to conservation in the area.

The biological field work is approximately two-thirds completed. The aquatic ecosystems in the four large lagoons (Uberaba, La Gaiba, Mandiore, Caceres) have been sampled for

vegetation, fish, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Data from Otuquis National Park were collected in its northeast side, with the less accessible south, central, and western areas yet unvisited due to difficult/expensive logistics. Once the remaining field data from San Matias sites are collected (probably July 1999- August 1999), the analysis and recommendations for zoning and management will serve as vital components to the protected area's future work plans. This work will also enrich our current maps of the area, which will be made available.

Community Organization and Training for the Management and Conservation of the Biosphere Reserve, El Cielo, Mexico

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Mexico

FUNDING

\$25,000.00

(USAID/Mexico)

DATES

02/01/99-02/28/00

COLLABORATORS

Terra Nostra, A.C.

PURPOSE

To decrease the rate of deforestation in and around the El Cielo Biosphere Reserve by increasing the level of community awareness and appreciation of the Reserve and designing and implementing pilot projects in selected communities that provide environmentally-sound economic alternatives.

DESCRIPTION

This is the fourth year of BSP support to this project. In the last few years, Terra Nostra has accomplished much in the way of gaining local residents participation in the management of the reserve. Twenty-three promoters were trained by Terra Nostra, who eventually organized themselves into a civil association and negotiated a seat on the management committee with the management entity of the reserve. In addition, six community-based environmentally sustainable enterprises were supported with technical assistance from Terra Nostra (carpentry, development of a tourist lodge and restaurant, training of wildlife guides, development of silvo-pastoral systems, harvest and marketing of ornamental plants, and preserving and marketing home garden produce and embroidery). BSP provides continued support of Terra Nostra's conservation initiatives focusing on scientific research, environmental education, and training of local residents.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The first interim report is expected by August 1999.

LAC Aquatic Priorities

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Various

FUNDING

\$235,000.00

(G/ENV/ENR;LAC Bureau)

DATES

06/01/95-09/30/99

PURPOSE

To carry out a geographic priority-setting exercise for the freshwater and marine habitats of Latin America and the Caribbean.

DESCRIPTION

The effectiveness of conservation investments in Latin America and the Caribbean can be greatly enhanced through a science-based assessment of conservation priorities. BSP, in collaboration with numerous conservation NGOs and regional experts, recently prioritized terrestrial ecoregions of the LAC region for conservation investment. This exercise was based on an integration of the conservation status and biological value of regional habitat units, with a consideration of human utility and political/institutional feasibility.

During the course of the BSP priority-setting exercise, it was recognized that there was an urgent need to conduct similar priority-setting analyses for freshwater and marine ecosystems. In fact, despite their critical importance from a biodiversity perspective, our knowledge regarding freshwater and marine systems, and the conservation attention they receive, lags significantly behind terrestrial ecosystems.

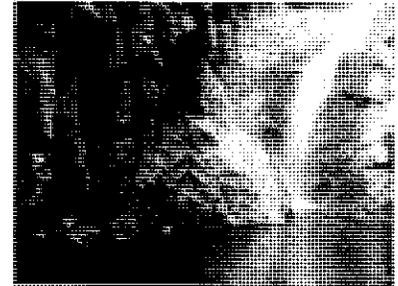
This activity builds on the work conducted during the terrestrial priority-setting exercise to develop a priority-setting methodology appropriate for freshwater and marine areas, and will set initial conservation priorities for these important ecosystems by 1) developing objective, transparent, and scientifically-based criteria to identify conservation priorities among freshwater and marine ecoregions; and 2) conducting two workshops with regional experts to apply these methods to all freshwater and marine ecoregions of the LAC region. TNC will take the lead on the marine analysis, and WWF, in collaboration with Wetlands for the Americas, will lead the freshwater analysis.

The results of these analyses can be used by USAID and other conservation donors to plan future investments and review past and current activities.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The freshwater report, entitled *Freshwater Biodiversity of Latin America and the Caribbean: A Conservation Assessment*, was published during this

reporting period. The publication will be disseminated to experts throughout Latin and North America.



Claudio Conteras

TNC has produced a draft marine report, and publication is expected by September 1999.

Latin America and Caribbean Ecoregional Funding Assessment

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Latin America and the Caribbean

COLLABORATORS

The World Bank, USAID/LAC

FUNDING

\$150,000.00
(USAID/LAC Bureau)

DATES

07/01/98-01/31/00

PURPOSE

The Ecoregional Funding Assessment's goals are as follows:

- Learn where donor resources are currently directed within the LAC region;
- Determine, if possible, to what extent these priority-setting studies have influenced biodiversity funding and project planning by conservation organizations and donors;
- Ascertain what gaps exist in funding priority ecoregions;
- Further educate donors on approaches to setting geographic priorities and the ecoregions currently needing support;
- Clarify the relationship between the concepts of priority-setting and ecoregion-based conservation (How does the former integrate into and inform the latter?).

DESCRIPTION

In response to the need to determine where to focus biodiversity conservation efforts, a variety of frameworks for geographic priority-setting in the LAC region have been developed over the past few years. The World Bank (WB) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in particular have been leaders within the donor community in supporting ecoregional assessments to define priority geographic areas for conserving biodiversity in the LAC region. Their support has resulted in two publications detailing the most current and comprehensive of these efforts for terrestrial priority-setting: *A Conservation Assessment of the Terrestrial*

Ecoregions of Latin America and the Caribbean, published by The World Bank, in association with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF); and *A Regional Analysis of Geographic Priorities for Biodiversity Conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean*, published by the Biodiversity Support Program (BSP), in collaboration with Conservation International (CI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Resources Institute (WRI), and WWF with support from USAID. In addition, marine and freshwater priority-setting analyses were supported by BSP and are being published in 1999.

The work presented in these publications is unique because it highlights the importance of a diversity of ecosystems throughout the hemisphere (e.g., deserts, grasslands, montane forests), rather than only highlighting the importance of species-rich ecological regions (e.g., lowland rain forests). It is also important because it targets a limited set of priority ecoregions for most immediate donor support. As a result of these assessments, partner conservation NGOs (e.g., WWF, TNC) are tailoring their conservation portfolios to include activities in priority ecoregions where little conservation now occurs.

It is unclear, however, how broadly the methodologies and results of the World Bank and USAID/LAC ecoregional priority-setting exercises have been disseminated and adopted by the broader biodiversity donor community (e.g., GEF, UNDP, IDB, bilateral donors, and private philanthropic organizations). Although lists of globally and regionally important ecoregions have been identified, the extent to which biodiversity donor funding is directed toward these priority ecoregions is unknown.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

All data have been entered into a database and spatial and tabular analyses have begun for the project. BSP expects to complete the analysis by the end of June 1999. It is already clear that the data will reveal many interesting results that will likely prove useful to donors and practitioners alike.

Mexico Ecodevelopment Program VI

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Mexico

FUNDING

\$900,000.00
(USAID/Mexico)

DATES

10/01/96-02/28/00

PURPOSE

To design and implement projects to promote environmentally sound community development around biologically important wildland areas that are threatened in Mexico. The overall goals of the program are to decrease the rate of deforestation in these wildland areas and to protect them as healthy, diverse ecosystems, while achieving sustainable methods and levels of resource use for the people living in and around the wildland areas.

DESCRIPTION

This is the sixth year of activities funded under the USAID/Mexico Global Climate Change Program. Projects in both northern and southern Mexico are funded within the Mexico Ecodevelopment Program.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

See pages 51 and 56.

Mexico Ecodevelopment Program VII

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Mexico

COLLABORATORS

The Nature Conservancy, Pronatura, A.C.

FUNDING

\$500,000.00
(USAID/Mexico)

DATES

09/01/98-08/31/00

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Mexico Ecodevelopment VII project is as follows:

- Assist Pronatura in consolidating its institutional strengthening process, focusing on board leadership, financial systems, resource mobilization strategies, intra-institutional communication, and staff skills development.
- Provide tools and techniques to Pronatura's regional offices, using selected Parks in Peril sites as learning centers, on ecoregional conservation strategies; planning for on-site conservation programs; and preparation of work plans, budgets, and long-term financial planning for protected areas, based on the Parks in Peril program process.
- Assist selected Pronatura regional offices in developing ecoregional strategies extending from priority natural areas, with recommendations for future funding needs.
- Design and disseminate tools and techniques, based on the lessons learned, for addressing ecoregional threats and opportunities; building the conservation capacity of local communities and organizations; and measuring conservation success at an ecoregional level.

DESCRIPTION

This is the first year of this project focusing on institutional development with the TNC partner Pronatura. The purpose of this project is to strengthen the organizational capabilities of Pronatura and assist the organization in designing successful conservation programs by extending the site-based learning from the Parks in Peril Program. Working in partnership with Pronatura, TNC will provide technical assistance and training to implement an organizational strategy based on recommendations from a recent McKinsey & Co., Inc. study and lessons learned from working with Pronatura on the Parks in Peril Program. TNC will develop the appropriate measures of success for this project and will widely disseminate best practices.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

With timely assistance from BSP, WWF, USAID, and TNC, Pronatura successfully implemented a debt-for-nature swap with USAID/BSP funds. A Pronatura and TNC strategic planning workshop at the Xochitla Conference Center in early September 1998 examined the emerging partnership between the two organizations and identified key issues related to Pronatura's institutional strengthening process. Directors from Pronatura's regional chapters and its headquarters in Mexico, D.F., and TNC counterparts were present. Pronatura's Committee of Seven Executive Directors (CD-7) have conducted several planning sessions and submitted a work plan and budget to TNC.

Southern Mexico Ecodevelopment Program VI

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Mexico

COLLABORATORS

CESMACH, SERBO, Union de Ejidos "El Triunfo de los Pobres," Línea Biósfera, Maderas del Pueblo del Sureste, EC, ODA, WWF-UK, Bosque Modelo

FUNDING

\$700,000.00
(USAID/Mexico)

DATES

10/01/97-07/31/99

PURPOSE

To design and implement projects to promote environmentally sound community development around biologically important, threatened wildland areas in southern Mexico, and to begin geographic expansion of the program to additional coastal/marine, Chihuahuan desert, and central Mexican montane forest sites. The overall goal of the program is to protect these areas as healthy, diverse ecosystems, while achieving sustainable methods and levels of resource use for the people living in and around them.

DESCRIPTION

This is the seventh year of BSP funding for the WWF-implemented portion of the Mexico Ecodevelopment Program. The program focuses on identifying and promoting agricultural and forestry technologies that will result in increased productivity and economic revenues for local farmers without leading to further environmental degradation. Activities are currently ongoing at four sites: Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, Campeche; El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve, Chiapas; El Ocote Ecological Reserve, Chiapas; and the Chimalapas region of Oaxaca. These activities will be completed in July 1999. Activities at each site are implemented by local NGOs and grassroots groups. Technical assistance, oversight, and coordination are provided by the WWF-Mexico program. Annual meetings, staff exchanges, training events and a full-time field coordinator link the subprojects into a coherent program. This year, WWF will be carrying out feasibility studies for the geographic

expansion of the program into other priority ecoregions within Mexico. Monitoring and evaluation activities are centrally coordinated through BSP and WWF.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The Southern Mexico Ecodevelopment Program disseminated sustainable resource-use techniques to more than 3,100 campesinos to decrease rates of deforestation in the four priority sites (Calakmul, El Ocote, El Triunfo and Chimalapas). The sustainable resource techniques included agroecology, bee keeping, environmental education, harvesting of non-timber forest products, and sustainable forest management. More recently, the program broadened its conservation approach to include more systematic threat identification and monitoring, institutional strengthening, and policy analysis and reform. As closeout of this project nears, local community extensionists are implementing surveys for measuring the overall impact these projects have had at the four priority sites. The results of this work will be incorporated into the Mexico Ecodevelopment Conservation Impact Report.

Supporting NGO Partners In Protected Area Management, Nicaragua

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Nicaragua

FUNDING

\$100,000.00
(USAID/Mexico)

DATES

07/01/98-02/28/00

PURPOSE

To improve conservation initiatives by building the monitoring and evaluation capacity of up to six NGOs working in protected areas throughout Nicaragua.

DESCRIPTION

The destruction caused in Nicaragua by Hurricane Mitch in November 1998 has delayed plans to implement this protected area management project. Ultimately, BSP will provide technical assistance in strategic planning, project design, management, and monitoring of up to six NGOs managing protected areas throughout Nicaragua. USAID/Managua will identify the NGOs who will participate. The goals of BSP's participation are to improve conservation through the support of NGOs working in protected areas of Nicaragua and to strengthen the capacities of Nicaraguan NGOs to implement conservation activities.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

A Scope of Work has been approved by the mission pending agreement on workshop dates. The Mission will identify the participating NGOs.

Technical Assistance to Fundación VIDA, Honduras

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Honduras

FUNDING

\$331,000.00

(G/ENR & STATE/OES)

DATES

7/01/98-02/28/00

PURPOSE

To provide short-term technical assistance and training in order to strengthen Fundación VIDA's institutional capacity to manage the fund.

DESCRIPTION

In 1992, as part of a debt reduction agreement with the United States, the Government of Honduras committed the equivalent of US \$5.125 million to establish an environmental fund to administer grants provided by the Honduran government to local NGOs. The Honduran Foundation for Environment and Development (Fundación VIDA) was created to manage this environmental fund as a private non-profit organization. Fundación VIDA's mandate is not to implement projects, but to receive, analyze, evaluate, and approve environmental project proposals submitted by local NGOs. Fundación VIDA also monitors and supervises the implementation of projects by the participating NGOs.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

BSP has provided periodic technical assistance to VIDA since its inception through funding received from USAID. The technical assistance that will be provided in the coming year was determined in a recent visit by BSP staff.

In October 1998, BSP staff traveled to Honduras to meet with VIDA staff, board members, and USAID. The week-long visit produced a work plan that defined the objectives and activities that will be carried out through BSP's technical assistance. The assistance outlined in the work plan includes funding an exchange visit to the Mexican Nature Conservation Fund (FMCN), strategic planning and assessment, board training, developing of a fund-raising strategy, and reviewing grant-making priorities while updating policies and procedures. Damage in Honduras caused by Hurricane Mitch in November 1998 has shifted priorities in the work plan, but has not delayed implementation. In January 1999, Fundación VIDA organized and carried out a successful exchange visit with FMCN. More recently, VIDA staff traveled to Stockholm to participate in an European donor conference to discuss funding reconstruction efforts of hurricane-ravaged Central American countries.

Technical Assistance UNICORS

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Haiti

LOP FUNDING

\$213,000

DATES

3/1/95-06/30/99

PURPOSE

To provide technical assistance to the UNICORS/PPM staff on various topics so that they are better able to undertake activities associated with this project.

DESCRIPTION

Under this sub-contract, BSP provided UNICORS/PPM staff with technical assistance and training on a variety of topics.

Related to this work, BSP contracted with 1) Centre de Formation et D'Encadrement Technique (CFET) to conduct a training needs assessment of UNICORS to provide training in participatory methodologies and develop a guide for park management derived from lessons learned; 2) the Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida to develop training materials and execute a workshop for field staff in basic ecology, biodiversity principles, natural resources management, and provide an overview of parks and protected areas and biodiversity monitoring; 3) Meredith Richardson, a private consultant, to conduct an organizational diagnostic of UNICORS to identify strengths and weaknesses and recommend opportunities for institutional change to improve chances for successful implementation of the Project Parc Macaya; and 4) JF Productions to produce a video on Pic Macaya that captures the history of conservation and development efforts to date.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

CFET submitted a final version of the publication *Guide de Gestion des Parcs en Haiti* (Manual for Park Management in Haiti), which was accepted by BSP. The manuscript is based on lessons learned from BSP-funded experience at Macaya. However, as CFET also conducted extensive participatory design work for World Bank-funded, follow-on activities at Macaya and two other national parks in Haiti (Forets des Pins and La Visite), BSP believed it was appropriate to integrate lessons from the design work into the final manual, and worked with CFET to do so.

BSP provided an additional round of comments on the video submitted by JF productions. Based on these comments, a revised script is being prepared for the English version of the video, and new narration will also be undertaken.