

**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT  
FUNDACIÓN DEFENSORES DE LA NATURALEZA / USAID-GT  
CONSERVATION OF SIERRA LACANDON NATIONAL PARK  
2003 - 2004**

*Final Report*  
*Cooperative Agreement: 520-A-00-04-00011-00*

**November 2003 - September 2004.**

**Presented by: Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza**



Santa Elena, Flores, Petén, November 15, 2004.

# 1. Presentation

The following report presents the achieved results under the cooperation agreement signed between Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza (FDN) and USAID-GT for the management and strengthening of the Sierra del Lacandón National Park (SLNP). The fulfillment of this agreement will strengthen the strategic objective SO5 "Improve the natural resources management and the conservation of the Biodiversity" and the intermediate result IR1 "Improve the natural resources management and the conservation of Biodiversity in identified bio-regions". This agreement defines activities and products, which we hope to, totally conclude together with our co - administrator partner CONAP.

The results were framed in two big objectives: A) Protect the ecological integrity (biodiversity, ecological process) of the high biological importance area (a<sup>2</sup>b) of the SLNP, and B) Strengthen the capacity of the co - administration to promote and carry out conservation actions in the SLNP. Each of these objectives were reached through specific activities that replied to clearly defined results. Activities, such as: prevention and control of forest fires, control and vigilance, monitoring of judicial processes against infractors, voluntary resettlement of families outside the park, subscription of cooperative agreements with key communities, development of productive projects and the initiation of the process of land buying in the intangible zone, were specific to achieve objective A. For objective B, activities such as working on proposals to look for financing, consolidation of inter - institutional relationships in the area, establishment of tools for the protected management area (Plan Maestro, POA's), and the respective monitoring and reported activities, were carried out.

## 2. Important achievements reached:

### ***A. The formulation of the Sierra Lacandon Master Plan has concluded.***

The Master Plan is one of the main tools for the management of protected areas. It defines the objectives and activities of priority so as to achieve the conservation objectives of the protected areas, in our case, the conservation of the natural - cultural resources and biological process in Sierra Lacandón.

The previous Master Plan (1999-2003) was one of the tools used by the park's administration to act accordingly. It is necessary to periodically update this tool to respond to the dynamics within the protected are. This is why a period of five years has been established for its performance.

During 2004 the Master Plan for Sierra Lacandón was updated. A group of professionals that support the management of the protected area in the region agreed on the methodology to be used. This multidisciplinary group was composed by representatives of organizations such as FDN, TNC, USAID, FIPA/IRG, CONAP. Subsequently several workshops were carried out. Here, several sectors of the civil society were invited (communities, non-governmental organizations, private companies), as well as governmental organizations (representatives of the ministries, local governments and other governmental institutions). Most of the institutions that were invited, assisted to the workshops. The vision, mission, objectives, natural and cultural conservation elements, threats, strategies and activities were defined, and conformed in the Master Plan.

Once the multidisciplinary team had revised the document, they recommended redesigning the structure of programs and subprograms for the next period based on the acquired experience of management. This suggests a better structure that enables the flow of information from the field to the park's direction and other internal and external structures, working more efficiently. It was concluded that the best structure to manage the park was periodical meetings with a group of coordinators to define short-term goals, complemented by an effective communication system between the coordinators and their and their field-operative personnel.

The division of zones guides the actions to reach the desired results. The zones were organized, depending on the participant's opinion, by threats identified during the process, as well as by the conflicts that are generated and the sustainable management potential. The internal zones were evaluated more deeply because they are important instruments of management and decision making.

As a result of the discussion, it was concluded that the current three zones are difficult to understand and respect by the stakeholders. The recuperation zone has to be evaluated because it has the highest level of demographic increase by the communities making it impossible to resettle them in an efficient way and their permanence doesn't help the process of regularization. In order to have social stability and decrease the destruction of natural resources in the area, we need to re - define the management rules of this zone.

Finally, annual evaluations were recommended to be programmed for the duration of the Master Plan and the Annual Operative Plans. This will help make an efficient evaluation at the end of the next period of the Master Plan.

A document draft with the information generated in the workshops was presented to the planning group, who revised and corrected it. This document was given to CONAP for its approval.

***B. Control and vigilance activities have mitigated the threats to the ecological integrity of the high biological importance area (framed in the Control and Vigilance strategy).***

The first step was the discussion and analysis of the Control and Vigilance Strategy implemented by the department of Protection and Conservation Program of SLNP since 2001. Such analysis was carried out on a technical level. It was decided to wait for the update of the Master Plan 2005-2009, so that the process would be useful to obtain the information to update the strategy.

The strategy was updated using the elements that came up during the workshops of the Master Plan. The actors that participated on these workshops and discussion tables were connected in some way with the Sierra Lacandon National Park (forest rangers, field technicians communitarian leaders, civil authorities, national and international experts, governmental and non - governmental organizations)

A strategy proposal was developed from the information compiled during the workshops. It frames the activities in eight strategies that strengthen the co-administration and respond to the conservation necessities of the park. The defined strategies are: a) Physical presence; b) Operate the Patrol Plan; c) Inter-institutional support; d) Limit demarcation; e) Attention to threats; f) Strengthening of COCODES and vigilance committees; g) Legal work and h) Activity documentation.

A series of activities have been developed from this tool that have been and continue to be executed to accomplish the conservation objectives that were proposed. These activities have focused on periodical patrols through the intangible zone and places susceptible of threats during this first year of implementation.

Threats such as invasions, illegal extraction of natural and cultural resources and agricultural development require the immediate attention of the park's co-administration. During 2004, the entry of at least nine groups of invaders that wanted to settle and acquire land in the park's intangible zone, was avoided. These invaders focused primarily on the frontier lands on the Usumacinta river and north, on the frontier with Tabasco. Some 300 families would have settled if we wouldn't have made the operatives with the security forces to avoid it.

The threat continues because the central authorities don't have the will to set a precedent for this type of activity. During this year no evacuation order has been carried out in the department, and PNSL has two orders pending execution (Centro Campesino and Los Pocitos).

### ***C. Strategy for community relationships updated and in execution:***

#### **a. Strategy and vision of the park's administration towards community work updated:**

From the conformation of Protected Areas with the Decree 489 of the Republic's Congress the vision of management of the core zones in the Protected Areas was essentially a place with no human presence. This responded to the idea that human presence, in itself, represents ecosystem deterioration due to their form of subsistence.

In an attempt to make conservation viable amidst social exclusion, prevailing in Guatemala, many international institutions supported the strategy of Relocation of Human Settlements (as in other countries with similar conditions). The strategy thought of moving population nuclei settled in areas of high biological importance (core zones) to other places where agriculture is predominant, where services such as education and health are available and where politics destined to human growth could be carried out. Communities such as Nueva Jerusalén II and the Guayacán settlements, located between the recuperation and the intangible zone (according to the 1998 - 2003 Master Plan), were to be relocated.

This approach had much impact at the beginning due to the "win - win" focus (win the conservation and win the community). Nevertheless, conservation has never been the responsibility of one entity, on the contrary the process of relocation demanded efforts of access, register, land register, accessibility to projects, productive development programs, health and educational services and even the access to justice.

The relocations started in 1995 - 1996 at the same time that the internal armed forces conflict was ending and during the transfer of the agrarian management responsibilities in Petén from FYDEP (Institute for the Development and Promotion of Petén) to INTA (National Institute of Agrarian Transformation). The first relocations were combined with processes of land acquirement outside the protected and private areas, land that was to be colonized. But because of the accelerated process of land occupancy, there was not much available land left. Also, because of corruption and the deficiencies in land registry some places were awarded more than one time. This didn't help the first

relocations because there was no security of land ownership, eventually provoking a very difficult conflict for CONTIERRA to resolve.

The park's relocations that took place tried to overcome the adjudication problems of free land (that were almost inexistent), concentrating our efforts on land access from Fondo de Tierras (an organism born with the peace agreements). This way we achieved the relocation of two settlements of the two emblematic communities of the Sayaxché municipio. This new settlement goes by the name of La Paz as a way to pay tribute to all the dialogue processes and negotiations that culminated with the acquisition of the 6B and 7B properties. The consolidation of this new community of resettled people has been a process just as difficult and expensive as the acquisition of the two properties.

The discussion over the park's new Master Plan (2005 - 2009) also aimed to evaluate the resettlement advances. Certainly, the organization and mobilization costs were very high and extremely difficult to uphold without help from supporting institutions. Also, Fondo de Tierras couldn't keep up with the land acquisition demand due to institutional inoperativeness, and the community lacked group cohesion, making the resettlement process more difficult. These communities are no more than conglomerates of people from all over the country, which coincided in the same place, making it difficult for them to constitute themselves as a unity. This makes disputes, complaints and even threats prevailing in the area.

This is why the park's administration decided to readjust the resettlement strategy and the relationship with emblematic communities. This is how we came to detail the new vision.

We have to find new viable alternatives to undertake the subject of human settlements within Protected Areas going further from the conceived repressive ways, or those that do not represent viable alternatives for the community.

It's the administration's responsibility to not only tackle the settlements in a different manner as during the past five years, but to also set a new vision in the Master Plan that's about to be approved by CONAP. This vision consists of proposing the relocation with a more modest profile according to the new political and conservational view in Petén and, increasing the dialogue process to begin to experiment the co-management with communities, arriving to agreements of mutual responsibility in the park's management.

## **Basic Facts:**

- The relocation is a valid mechanism to diminish the social pressure on natural resources at the core zones of the park.
- Nevertheless, the relocation is a very expensive process that needs the attention of many institutional actors, mainly from the State. And there are no mechanisms that put pressure on the community to be relocated, so it depends on their willingness to leave the area.
- We acknowledge that the communities that signed intention agreements (now called of cooperation) with CONAP in 1998 have not grown outside of their limits, and they have recognized that if there had been more accompaniment, the level of forest cover of the area would have been controlled. This

demonstrates that it is possible to make sustainable development investments with the communities under agreement.

- The communities have recognized their intention to not only get relocated, but to reach agreements that allow them to stay in the area contributing to its management along with the park's administration. This leaves aside the traditional conflictive relationship with these communities.
- Petén's CONAP has stopped promoting resettlements (in an open way), due to the financial limitations that it has, promoting instead, dialogue processes for future agreements of cooperation and evacuations (that have not been clear up to now).

### **Cooperation agreement objectives:**

- A. Stabilize the growth of human settlements near the park's core zone, as are: Guayacán complex (Estacas, Repasto and Guayacán), Nueva Jerusalén II and Manantialito.
- B. Sign viable cooperation agreements through community investment of sustainable productive projects (other communities that signed agreements in 1998, aside from the already mentioned ones, are, San Juan Villanueva, Poza Azul and Villa Hermosa).

### **Lines of work currently implemented in the communities:**

- Compilation of fieldwork information (census and exploration of provisional boundaries)
- Establish dialogue aspects through the approach to community leaders.
- Communicate the dialogue process intentions and the need of cooperation to acquire the necessary information through meetings with community people.
- Search for productive investments.

### **b. Relocation of 20 families outside the high biological importance area has finished**

As we have mentioned, the relocation of families outside the high biological importance area has taken second place of importance for us. We want to clarify that we have not dropped the activity to consolidate the protected area; instead, we see the signing of agreements with the communities and their permanence along the cooperation agreements, more feasible. Some people want to be relocated outside protected areas. This is how the Ejidos Municipales' Relocation Plan resulted in the relocation of 20 families (61 children and 40 adults) outside the Sierra Lacandon National Park. In other words, 101 people would not be using the high biological importance area of the SLNP.

For legal reasons, the twenty families signed Letters of Understanding for their voluntary relocation in the Park as well as Compromise Statements for the responsible use of the Social Compensator. This holds them directly responsible for the acquisition

of construction materials and the land for their homes. Visits to the families have been made confirming that they have acted according to what was stipulated in the Understanding Letters.

These families were located in different parts of the department, and most of them have in their power the respective Possession Statement that supports them as legitimate owners of the land for their homes. Some made procedures in La Libertad's City Hall in Petén to request land. Then they will measure their land, and will draw up a Possession Statement after the projects of urbanization have finished.

#### *D. Low impact of Forest Fires in the intangible zone of the park..*

In the year of 2004, the campaign of forest fires was intensified focusing in consciousness, organization, and training of communities that are located in the recuperation zone and the special use zone of the park.

In the subject of Prevention of Forest Fires a Commission of Municipal Forest Fires (CIF) was integrated, which was composed of an inter-institutional team, which was lead by the Municipality of La Libertad. The organization of the CIF Municipal had as objective the coordination of the work of all the institutions that work in La Libertad, among the institutions that participated in the CIF Municipal are the following: INAB, Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza, Asociación Agua, and CONAP.

The broadcasting of prevention campaign it was organized along with CONAP the promotion of the campaign of prevention and control of forest fires, through consciousness talks to communities, placing billboards, radio messages, and audio-visual material.

With support of technical personnel of CONAP, some visits to the authorities of Civil Protection of Tenosique, Tabasco, México were carried out. The purpose was to get the necessary support to work with the nearby Mexican ejidos of the intangible zone and if it was necessary to thwart the forest fires in the northern part of the Park using the road infrastructure of México. The communities in Guatemala that were assisted are San Juan Villanueva, La Felicidad, El Esfuerzo, La Técnica Agropecuaria, Unión Maya Itzá, Bethel, Retalteco, Bethania, Ceibo, Guayacán, Las Estacas, Poza Azul, San Juan Villanueva, and Villahermosa.

The responsibility of the park administration was to guide the communities with direct influence in the park, 500 signs were distributed and more than 300 brochures, besides, the CIF Municipal was supported with the printing of 1000 copies of papers for the report of agricultural burnings.

The communities that were trained in fire management are: La Felicidad, El Esfuerzo, La Técnica Agropecuaria, Unión Maya Itzá, Bethel, Retalteco, Bethania, Ceibo, Guayacán, Las Estacas, Poza Azul, San Juan Villanueva, and Villahermosa.

There were hired 19 people that were properly trained over the fire management which whom two teams were organized, one of 8 people and other with 9 people, leading by a Technician of Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza.

The objective was to carry our works of prevention (maintenance and establishment of fire lines) and if a fire started into the SLNP they would begin taking fire control actions.

Also, two community groups were organized in the community of la Felicidad (each team was composed of 10 people), In the side of the Municipality of La Libertad two teams were organized with the objective to give support to the areas that require as priority forest areas of the municipio.

The hired teams of Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza was distributed in the Guayacán, Sierra, and Nuevo Edén Districts (area of the route to El Naranjo where the susceptibility to forest fires is higher). Moreover, a team composed of the park personnel were organized, which stands out in Bethel for any sinister that happens in the area. To each team, equipment to combat Forest Fires were provided.

Besides, all the community work done and local authorities, we did some activities of fuel reduction, that means the maintenance of existent gaps and the use of new ones that were necessary.

The administration of the park identified the necessity to establish lines in susceptible areas to forest fires, specially in the limit between the Special Use Zone (ZUE), and the intangible Zone (ZI) of the Park.

For the establishment of the fire lines was determined the width of them according to the type of the existent vegetation. The width ranges from 3.5 to 5 meters and they were established around 16 kilometers of fire lines, specially to the north-west in the areas of Guayacán and el Ceibo, also it was established 1 kilometer of fire line to the north-west of the community of San Juan Villanueva. These lines have the meaning to protect the area that have not been affected by forest fires coming principally from the settled communities in the regions of Guayacán, El Repasto, Las Estacas, el Ceibo. In the South part of the park, at least 20 km of fire lines were established along with the community Union Maya Itzá that put the labor force and was supported with materials coming from the SLNP.

#### *E. Strategic Relations and Fund-raising:*

Our partner FIPA/IRG developed a proposal for the fund-raising "Strategy for Fundraising for Sierra del Lacandon National Park" according the stipulated in the contract with FIPA. That strategy we will take as a base to begin in search of funds for the management of the park.

Regardless, Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza has organized a team for the search of financing and in the last months 11 profiles of priority projects for the management and consolidation of the SLNP have been elaborated; subsequently some were presented to possible donors. From these profiles five projects have been made to negotiate in the subjects of Forest Fires, Conservation of the Scarlet Macaw, Conservation of the Jaguar, Consolidation and restoration of the archaeological site Piedras Negras, Protection and Conservation of the SLNP (elements of conservation to attend to priority according to the Master Plan 2005 - 2009). All these projects were presented to possible donors. Following we present a description of the projects that have been requested.

The coadministration of the park negotiated proposals and has secured more than one million dollars to invest in the region, this would strengthen the conservation of Sierra Lacandon. More than 2 million dollars have been submitted to other donors and are being analyzed, that makes about 48% of success of our fundraising efforts. Some

donor that have been submitted this proposals are: Liz Claiborne Foundation, Compton Foundation, CEPF/CI (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund), WMF (World Monument Fund), Loro Parque Foundation, and AGROCYT.

### **3. Level of Results achieved:**

*A. Protect the ecological integrity (biodiversity, ecological processes) of the area of high biological importance (a2ib) of SLNP.*

R A1. Reduce natural resources extraction and invasions that threat the ecological integrity of the a<sup>2</sup>ib.

<b>Results</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Percentage achieved</b>
<b>Update existing Protection Strategy (PS) for SLNP with emphasis on the a<sup>2</sup>ib.</b>	Protection Strategy	100%
<b>Patrol the a<sup>2</sup>ib in accordance with the PS.</b>	Technical and financial reports	100%
<b>Start legal actions and coordinate with corresponding authorities to provide follow-up to detected infractions.</b>	Denounces presented to Ministerio Público and prosecute active cases.	100%
<b>Protect identified Scarlet Macaw nests in a<sup>2</sup>ib.</b>	Number of successful identified nests and at least 6 pigeons not stolen.	100%
<b>Provide technical assessments and recommendations for xate license granting</b>	Technical assessments delivered to CONAP	100%

R A2. Reduce forest fires that affect the a<sup>2</sup>ib.

Result	Deliverable	Percentage achieved
<i>Provide maintenance to 20 kilometers of fire breaks around key sensitive areas for prevention purposes.</i>	<i>Number of Km (20) of fire brakes establish and maintain to prevent forest fires</i>	100%
<i>Carry out prevention work (awareness building and technical assistance) at community level</i>	<i>Number of people been assist</i>	100%
<i>Improve institutional capacity response through brigades conformation, personnel training, institutional coordination, and detection systems</i>	<i>Number of available trained people to combat forest fires.</i>	100%
<i>Combat forest fires in the a<sup>2</sup>ib if needed.</i>	<i>Information in control of forest fires</i>	100%
<i>Provide special protection in at least 3 key areas for post fires regeneration.</i>	<i>Information in control of forest fires</i>	100%

R A3. Priority human settlements inside the a<sup>2</sup>ib of SLNP were moved outside the park or provided with alternatives to stabilize their presence and reduce impact.

Actividad	Verificador	Porcentaje alcanzado
<i>Revise the Community Relations Strategy (CRS) of SLNP, including relocation and sustainable permanence programs</i>	<i>Revised CRS that includes updated relocation and sustainable permanence programs.</i>	100%
<i>Develop a new program for relocation into municipal land with families willing to move out.</i>	<i>Potentially 45 families relocated to municipal land if appropriate agreements are reached with new municipal authorities and community groups</i>	100%
<i>Negotiate and implement "sustainable permanence agreements" with groups within the Park.</i>	<i>At least three new clearly regulated agreements with communities are developed or revised for sustainable permanence within the Park.</i>	33%
<i>Develop and negotiate proposals for income generating activities for groups.</i>	<i>Proposals for income generation activities that promote stabilization of groups within and along the Park are developed and in process of negotiation or implementation.</i>	100%
<i>Study case focused in participation gender activities in human settlements.</i>	<i>At least one case study focused in gender participation for the</i>	100%

	<i>human settlements activities undertaken.</i>	
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R A4. Develop a strategy to resolve land tenure problems in Naranjito I and II to conserve its ecological integrity.

<b>Result</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Percentage achieved</b>
<i>Finish the negotiation of payment conditions with owner</i>	Letter-agreement ("promesa de compra-venta") between Naranjitos owner and Defensores defining purchase conditions.	100%
<i>Finish design and begin implementation of a fund-raising campaign with support of TNC.</i>	A fund-raising campaign for the property purchase developed and implementation began.	75%

R A5. Complete the construction of Ceiba de Oro Park Station in Sierra Lacandon National Park.

<b>Result</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Percentage achieved</b>
<i>The construction of Ceiba de Oro park station completed.</i>	Infrastructure completed	100%

*B. Strengthen coadministration capacity in order to promote and implement conservation actions in the SLNP a<sup>2</sup>ib.*

R B1. To develop and implement a fund-raising campaign to raise funds for five years in accordance with the information of the Financial Plan.

<b>Result</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Percentage achieved</b>
<i>Develop and implement fund-raising plan with support of FIPA/IRG and TNC</i>	<i>Fund-raising campaign with clear institutional responsibilities developed and implemented.</i>	100%

R B2. Consolidate mechanisms to involve key actors in the management of the SLNP

<b>Result</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Percentage achieved</b>
<i>Carry out regular events with co-administration partner CONAP as well as an evaluation workshop with new officials.</i>	<i>Monthly meetings with our associate CONAP</i>	30%
<i>Continue dialogue table with community representatives</i>	Dialogue table mechanism with	100%

	communities reestablished and operating.	
<b><i>Establish new consultative committee with key government entities and other institutional actors.</i></b>	Consultative committee with key organizations established.	0%

R B3. Develop planning tools and implement monitoring systems (performance and biological) for the park.

<b>Result</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Percentage achieved</b>
<b><i>Develop the new 2004-2008 Master Plan for SLNP.</i></b>	SLNP 2004-2008 Master Plan document.	100%
<b><i>Develop Annual Operational Plan for 2004 and 2005</i></b>	Annual Operational Plan for 2004 and 2005.	50%
<b><i>Establish a performance monitoring and evaluation system for the Park</i></b>	Performance and biological monitoring system improved and implemented.	100%
<b><i>Implement a biological monitoring system.</i></b>	Reports of performance and biological monitoring produced in consensus with FIPA/IRG and WCS/CEMEC.	80%
<b><i>Prepare appropriate and periodic reports.</i></b>	Reports developed and delivered	70%

R B4. Promote policy activities and Government of Guatemala commitment to support SLNP.

<b>Result</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Percentage achieved</b>
<b><i>Develop a work plan with FIPA/IRG to enhance commitment of GoG to SLNP protection.</i></b>	Work plan developed and implemented.	0%

#### **4. Description of achievements:**

*A detailed description of the activities that were achieved for the proposed results and deliverables outlined through this cooperation agreement.*

##### **A. Protect the ecological integrity (biodiversity, ecological processes) of the area of high biological importance (a2ib) of SLNP.**

The primordial objective of most protected areas is the conservation of the biodiversity and of the biological processes that occur in it, for this reason all the activities framed inside the protected areas should have as target conservation. Sierra Lacandon presents all type of threats, so much natural as of human origin, to mitigate the negative impact to the integrity of the ecosystems we should achieve strategic actions that are able to cover the impact on most of the biodiversity. This project outlines activities to mitigate the extraction of natural and cultural resources, the impact of the Forest Fires, collaborative work with community groups for the sustainable development and of course the consolidation of high-priority areas for his conservation.

##### **R A1. Reduce natural resources extraction and invasions that threat the ecological integrity of the a<sup>2</sup>ib.**

One of the main threats that SLNP faces is the extraction of natural resources and the invasions that's why the coadministración of the park has to deal with these activities in a high-priority way for its attention. During the period we did periodic patrols to the core zone of the park done by the rangers and the technical staff of the park. In this patrols several illegal activities were identified that were assisted later by the security forces SEPRONA and Ejercito Nacional (National Police and National Army) coordinated by the technical staff of the park. In most of cases the people that was surprised in the park invading land or extracting resources immediately were apprehended or get them out.

##### **R A2. Reduce forest fires that affect the a<sup>2</sup>ib.**

The same as the extraction of resources and the invasions the forest fires are one of the threats that has a strong negative impact forest areas, fortunately the climatic conditions, the consciousness and organization work that strengths authorities in the Forest Fire issue. During the period Forest Fires were not presented in forest areas of SLNP there was incidence in agricultural and cattle areas where it was not necessary the presence of the brigades of the Commission of Forest Fires of the Municipalidad de La Libertad. Also, we support in a fire in the forest area of the Cooperative La Tecnica Agropecuaria where this community requested the support of the coadministración due to its boundary with the core zone of the park.

In prevention matter the maintenance of the 33 kilometers of brake lines for fire was achieved (core zone limits), we also provide support to a reforestation area of more than 50 hectares inside the area of special use of the SLNP. A total of 6 communities were assisted specifically in the matter of environmental awareness in the use and handling of the fire, other 5 communities were properly organized and trained for the prevention and control of Forest Fires.

We conformed to 2 brigades of properly qualified Forest Firemen and another brigade was provided by the Municipal CIF of La Libertad to assist Forest Fires in the SLPN. Community brigades were conformed in the communities of Union Maya Itza, La Tecnica Agropecuaria, La Felicidad and Guayacán.

They were defined critical areas in susceptibility to Forest Fires in the regions of Arroyo Yaxchilán, Centro Campesino (there is an invasion of 100 families in the property) and Piedras Negras Archaeological Site (frontier with Tabasco, Mexico).

**R A3. Priority human settlements inside the a<sup>2</sup>ib of SLNP are moved outside the park or provided with alternatives to stabilize their presence and reduce impact.**

The work with human settlements was framed in the Strategy of Community Relationships which was updated during the first semester of the year, we focus ourselves in two work lines: to) people's voluntary relocation outside a<sup>2</sup>ib, and b) subscription of cooperation agreements with communities with historical rights on the land (inside the park).

In the relocation activity they moved outside of the a<sup>2</sup>ib a total of 20 families that you/they were seated in the community of Manantialito in the southeast of the SLNP. These families were relocated through a program that we have begun where they move to municipal public land facilitated by the respective Municipalities of the Department. They are also supported with the transfer, minimum roof and a capital seed to supplement their housing in the municipal public land. The municipalities that facilitated the relocation were those of: Sayaxché, The Freedom, San Benito, Dolores and San José, all these in the department of the Petén. Also, all the relocated families gave their lands to the administration of the park that later on were geoposicionadas.

As regards subscription of cooperation agreement with communities that are entitled historical on the earth like they are they: Guayacán, New Jerusalem II, Manantialito, Stream Yaxchilán; it was possible to sum up with the establishment of Stream Yaxchilán an agreement in which recognizes the permanency of the establishment with use restrictions on the earth. The other three communities are in dialogue process the signature of agreements, we are sure that they are slow processes that can last years until the signature of the agreement. San Juan's communities Villanueva, Villahermosa and Blue Puddle signed "cooperation agreements" in the year 1997, to this agreements were not given the pursuit and respective monitoreo by both parts for what this year has been recaptured the agreements and one has like goal to sign new commitments framed in the new one "cooperation agreement" that has been established by CONAP.

**R A4. Develop a strategy to resolve land tenure problems in Naranjito I and II to conserve its ecological integrity.**

The properties Naranjito I and II are inside the intangible zone of the SLNP reason why its purchase would be strengthening the integrity of the SLNP, the current proprietors are represented by Agrilibertad S.A., which have agreed to set a price for both properties with representatives of the Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza by an amount of USS2.2 million. As legal requirement to obtain financing of The Nature Conservancy for the purchase of this property, we asked to IDEADS to make a study on the legal status of the property. The result of the study (assessment) indicates that its registered to Agrilibertad as the legal proprietary of Naranjito I and II. With this information we proceed to the measurement and evaluation of the properties. That activity was adjudicated to the company called TECA S.A.

At the same time the legal and biological study of the properties, we started the planning of the fundraising for the purchase. Our primary partner, TNC will lead the

campaign with the program "adopt an acre". This program is diffused by students in the U.S. schools that have activities for fundraising (Promotional videos, magazines, t-shirts). This campaign has a goal of US 4 million dollars for the purchase and the management of the properties by Defensores. Currently, this campaign has US\$ 800,000 already collected.

R A5. Complete the construction of Ceiba de Oro Park Station in Sierra Lacandon National Park.

The control station "Ceiba de Oro" located in the Southeast edge of the park is the entrance in the river side. This location is strategic and its consolidation is very important for the park management. In the previous project administrated by FIPA/IRG with USAID funds we started its construction. The construction is now complete and we are equipping and is in function.

*B. Strengthen coadministration capacity in order to promote and implement conservation actions in the SLNP a<sup>2</sup>ib.*

**R B1. Develop and implement a fund-raising campaign to raise funds for five years in accordance with the information of the Financial Plan.**

We proposed two activities to achieve this result: The design of a fundraising plan and its implementation, working jointly with our partners (TNC and FIPA/IRG) we agree the responsibilities of each one to obtain the funds to the SLNP.

The coordinated work with TNC was the collection of almost SU\$4 million to the purchase and management of Naranjito 1 and 2 properties. That campaign will continue in coordination with TNC Guatemala and TNC Washington during 2004. The fund collection was made with the TNC program "adopt an acre" and its described in the result A4.

The other partner FIPA/IRG developed a strategy for fundraising. This strategy was framed in the local rising with the private enterprises and local population. Also with private foundations, government agencies, multilateral projects and others. This document presents a data base of possible national and international donors for the park. This document has not been implemented yet, because the activities haven't been assigned to any responsible person nor to an institution. During the second semester Defensores established the team to start the fundraising work for SLNP. The principal achievements were the presentation of several proposals to potential donors and the marketing work of the park with the memberships-sell of the program "amigos de Defensores". Next table exposes the applied proposals.

PROPOSAL	DONNOR (DATE)	Amount	Status
Management of a silvopastoril system for cattle production in "San Juan Villa Nueva"	PDS/BID (2004-2006)	US\$68,041.00	Aproved
Management of a silvopastoril system for cattle production in "Villahermosa"	PDS/BID (2004-2006)	US\$124,853.00	Aproved
Management of a silvopastoril system for cattle production in "Red Agroforestal Altamira - La Casaca"	PDS/BID(2004-2006)	US\$50,381.40	Aproved
Management of a silvopastoril system for cattle production in "San Juan Villanueva"	PDS/BID(2004-2006)	US\$92,388.46	Aproved
Sustainable Management of the Middle Usumacinta	USAID(2004-2006)	US\$800,000.00	Aproved

Watershed (fondos para la region)			
Protección of the land property Centro Campesino, SLNP	PINFOR/INAB (2004)	US\$63,744.68	Approved
Disonibility, Use of hábitat and population healt status of the jaguar in SNLP	SCI Foundation / NFWF / CI / AID México (2004-2005)	US\$19,945.00	Approved
Support to SLNP	Richardson Charitable Trust (2005)	US\$50,000.00	Approved
	<b>Total of approved projects</b>	<b>US\$1,269,353.54</b>	
System of prevention and control of tretas in the Intangible zone in SLNP	CEPF/CI (2005-2006)	US\$350,000.00	Intention letter delivered
Protection and conservation of the archaeological site Piedras Negras	World Monument Fund (2005-2007)	US\$463,000.00	Profile delivered and request of Project by donor
Scarlet macaw conservation project	Fundación Loro Parque (2005-2007)	€235,920.00 (US\$307,628.11)	Project delivered
	<b>Total of projects in request process</b>	<b>US\$1,120,628.11</b>	
Land use re-adaptation in the influence area of SLNP	Moriah Fund	US\$20,000.00	Rejected
Determinación del hábitat del jaguar en el SLNP. Jaguar habitat determination in SLNP	AGROCYT	US\$63,000.00	Rejected
	<b>Total of projects rejected</b>	<b>US\$83,000.00</b>	
	<b>Total requested</b>	<b>US\$2,472,981.65</b>	

In summary a total US\$2,472,981.65 has been requested of which US\$1,269,353.54 have been approved (48%) and have been rejected by a total of US\$83,000.00 (3%). Additionally, in the next months the approval of two more proposals by a total of US\$1,120,628.11 have been solved.

## **R B2. Consolidate mechanisms to involve key actors in the management of the SLNP**

During this period a new strategy of dialogue was developed and with the representatives of approximately 25 communities jointly with some of the instances wich supports the farmers demands in the area ("Pastoral Social" and Committee of Route Naranjo-Ceibo Border). Although, there was a pause in the process in the year of 2003, as a result of legal processes against the leaders and the advancement of the national and local electoral process, in the year 2004 we reset the dialogue in the communities identified like high-priority according to the discussions developed for the Master Plan 2005 - 2009, in which the representatives of the communal part participated again as the Committee of Naranjo Route. Evidently, it gave quality to the process whereas the communities have begun to recognize the authority in this administration and the regional Committee of the Route has passed to a second place. Moreover, they have defined that only they can be represented by themselves in a space of dialogue with the authorities of the park.

As a result of that new attitude towards the dialogue the communitarians have accepted to work with technicians of the park to compile socioeconomic and spatial information of the community. On the other hand, the administration has recognized their right for land search, because some of communitarians were in the area before the protected area declaration. It's an obligation of the Municipal government of La Libertad to find a solution to this problem.

One of the objectives that became difficult to approach in the dialogue process was to maintain informed to around seven thousand communitarians that were represented relatively in the Committee of Route. That's why it was planned the spreading of informative records with the proposals of re-adaptation of land use and the same space of the dialogue table. Nevertheless, given the adverse conditions that the electoral campaign in the area meant, we have to suspend this activity in the year 2,003. For 2,004 we hope for the consolidation of the new authorities and to rescue the dialogue process again. With the new negotiation strategy that focuses on the three communities that are in the recovery zone of the park, the distribution of such promotional material has been distributed along with other materials that have been produced by CONAP Petén, in order to approach the deal with the human settlements (popularized version of the Policy Human for Petén and calendars).

It is necessary to recognize that the objectives in the distribution in the last year included a greater number of adjacent populations. In this year, we have located ourselves in a smaller group, but where we thought to have greater incidence (communities with intention agreements already signed and communities with intention to sign it).

**R B3. Develop planning tools and implement monitoring systems (performance and biological) for the park.**

This result increased the organizational capacity of the Co-administration of the SLNP, updating its primary planning tool (Master Plan 1999-2003), that has the category regulation of the law decree. The planning process was carry out jointly with partners (TNC, FIPA, AID, CONAP, IDAEH), involving community representatives, government institutions and non government organizations with different objectives, but with common interests for the sustainable development and natural resources conservation. The result was a master plan (2005-2009) known in the community and institutional level, which is in process of approval by CONAP. During this process were defined Vision, objectives, natural and cultural conservation elements, viability and integrity of them, threats, strategies and expected results. This tool has a planning system for 5 years that proposes results, which will be separated in activities every year in the Annual Operative Plan formats . Furthermore, it has a listing of success indicators (biological and cultural monitoring) to evaluate the impact degree that the application of the strategies will have in the execution period. Some of these indicators were defined based on the biological monitoring system of the RBM executed by WCS-FIPA for AID, since mentioned parameters have occurrence in the SLNP. Moreover, it counts with indicators in a finer scale applicable to the context of the SLNP and useful for his administration.

The 2004 Annual Operative Plan was requested by CONAP at the end of 2003 and it was approved based on the previous Master Plan, with previous

authorization of CONAP VIII. The 2005 Annual Operative Plan will start its development process at the end of 2004 when the new Master Plan is approved by the technical direction of CONAP, hoping its authorization at beginnings of 2005. For that goal, Coordination team members will separate the results in activities to develop in the next year.

Due to the constant increase of information and documents generated in the Co-administration, a Microsoft® Access® environment system denominated "System of Programmatic Monitoreo SLNP" was made during the first semester of this year. That system stores individually every task developed by the personnel of the Co-administration and automatically it classifies according to activities and results of the other planning tools. In addition, it allows to the elaboration of reports according to period and independent project, which makes agile the monitoring processes. Also, it files of electronic way all the related data to biological monitoring, that are compiled according to the indicators identified in the plan of monitoring agree in the process of elaboration of the Master Plan. This system is in constant update, increasing the ease of use for the end users, the Co-administration equipment.

**R B4. Promote policy activities and Government of Guatemala commitment to support SLNP.**

The activities proposed to reach this result were based on establishing a joint agenda between FIPA/IRG and the coadministration to make incidence in institutions like the Departmental Government, Public Ministry and the Judicial Organism to fortify the conservation of the SLNP. This agenda never settled down with our partner, nevertheless coadministration Defensores-CONAP has establish constant communication with the Departmental Government and the Agency of Crimes against the Environment. These two governmental institutions have supported the management in SLNP offering eventual support in cases of attention to illicit like invasions, sackings and especially in the Forest Fires season.

The support of the Departmental Government has not been constant; it in the beginning did not support the execution of evacuation within the protected areas reason why there was certain confrontation between this institution and the coadministration. As of the second semester where these institutions realize the problematic one of the protected areas, they increase supporting gradually our management. They has supported in the evacuation of new invasions and captures to archaeological looters and leaders of invasions.