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# NATURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE PROGRESS REPORT

FIRST QUARTER FY 2007, OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2006

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## **ACRONYMS**

<b>BIOFOR</b>	Biodiversity and Sustainable Forestry
<b>B/F Team</b>	Biodiversity and Forestry Team
<b>CoP</b>	Chief of Party
<b>CTO</b>	Cognizant Technical Officer
<b>EGAT</b>	Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade Bureau
<b>F</b>	Office of US Foreign Assistance
<b>FY</b>	Fiscal Year
<b>LPA</b>	Bureau of Legislative and Public Affairs
<b>NRIC</b>	Natural Resources Information Clearinghouse
<b>NRM</b>	Natural Resources Management
<b>NRMO</b>	NRM Office
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>USAID</b>	U.S. Agency for International Development

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## SUMMARY

This document serves as the Natural Resources Information Clearinghouse's (NRIC) progress report for the first quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2007, the 17<sup>th</sup> quarter of operation (October through December 2006). It details the NRIC products and activities for this quarter and describes tasks performed to support the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Natural Resources Management Office (NRMO). It also summarizes NRIC project planning, monitoring, and reporting activities for the final period of its operation. In the last section, the report summarizes financial information.

As NRIC moves toward project completion in March 2007, the chief of party (CoP) worked with the USAID cognizant technical officer (CTO) and NRMO director to sustain the program and prioritize activities as the close-out date approaches. NRIC administrative staff provided budget projections and estimates for the remainder of the project. USAID agreed to fund the program "status quo" until completion and obligated additional funds during the fourth quarter of 2006 as part of that commitment. No additional funds are anticipated to be obligated before project close-out.

NRIC staff continued to maintain natural resources management (NRM) web sites and updated online databases to track NRM projects and activities. The NRIC webmaster posted new content and continued maintenance on the public web site.

During the first quarter, NRIC staff helped produce several communications products for NRMO, including technical reports and communications materials. For example, NRIC staff completed a report titled *Issues in Poverty Reduction and Natural Resource Management*, for the Land Team. NRIC produced a revised the draft background/issues paper on biodiversity conservation and human rights. For the Biodiversity and Forestry Team, the NRIC biodiversity and forestry technical specialist helped produce the *Biodiversity and Forestry Programs, FY 2005* report, the *Foreign Assistance Act, Section 118: Tropical Forests FY 2005* report, and a draft version of an issue brief on the biodiversity code. The land resource technical specialist produced a summary document with World Bank for the e-seminar series, *The Role of Communication in Sustainable Tourism Development*. The water technical specialist completed *USAID's Investments in Addressing Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution* report for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Programme of Action's Inter-governmental Review meeting in Beijing in October.

Staff changes:

- The senior editor's level of effort was increased to provide additional support through January 19, 2007.
- Steve Nelson (CoP) departed on October 3, 2006. Renee Morin was approved as the new CoP and has served on a half-time basis during Q4 FY06 and will continue to serve through project close-out.

This quarterly report provides further details in seven task areas:

Task 1: Reports, publications, and research

Task 2: Activity and project tracking

Task 3: Web maintenance and management

Task 4: Information management

Task 5: Planning

Task 6: Conference, training, and communications support

Task 7: NRIC project planning, monitoring, and reporting

## TASK 1: REPORTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND RESEARCH

NRIC assists the NRMO and technical teams to research, write and produce reports, case studies, brochures and other informative documents.

In the first quarter, NRIC staff helped NRMO technical teams complete several reports. Before printing, each report receives a formal approval from the team sponsor, followed by review and approval from the Bureau of Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA). Reports worked on during the first quarter include:

- **Foreign Assistance Act, Section 118: Tropical Forests FY 2005.** NRIC staff worked with the Biodiversity and Forestry Team to integrate additional edits into the Section 118 report.
- **Biodiversity and Forestry Programs Report, FY 2005.** NRIC staff worked with members of the Biodiversity and Forestry Teams to make additional edits and prepare a revised layout version of the report marked "sensitive but unclassified-US Government only" throughout. The report was re-submitted for review by LPA and the Office of the Director of US Foreign Assistance (F).
- **Communication and Sustainable Tourism: Proceedings of the global e-conference and summer speaker series.** In the summer of 2006, NRIC provided organizational support to a USAID speaker series that served as a follow-on to a June e-conference hosted by USAID, the World Bank and the UN World Tourism Organization. The e-conference and speaker series explored the role of development communication in sustainable tourism. NRIC produced a document merging the proceedings of the June e-conference and the summer speaker series for presentation and distribution at the October 2006 World Congress on Communication for Development in Rome.
- **Issues in Poverty Reduction and Natural Resource Management.** NRIC staff worked with the Land Team to complete a report based on a series of presentations delivered in 2004 and 2005. LPA approval was received for the report and staff worked with a graphics designer to finalize layout. NRIC printed fifty copies of the final report for delivery and distribution at the FRAME Natural Products conference in early October. Additional copies of this report will be printed during the second quarter for distribution to a wider audience.
- **Conservation and Governance.** NRIC slightly revised the *Human Rights and Responsibilities in Biodiversity Conservation Settings: Issues and Opportunities* report based on a NRMO meeting that discussed the outcomes of the paper. A final internal copy of the report was submitted to USAID. This report will not be broadcast to a public audience at this time.

- **Water Reports and Fact Sheets.** The water technical specialist completed *USAID's Investments in Addressing Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution* report for the UNEP Global Programme of Action's Inter-governmental Review meeting in Beijing in October. More than 400 participants representing countries from all over the world were in attendance. The report documents the more than \$1.2 billion investment made by USAID from FY 2001 to FY 2005 in five areas to address land-based sources of marine pollution. These areas are: (1) wastewater treatment; (2) watershed management and integrated water resources management; (3) coastal resources management; (4) clean production and pollution control; and (5) water management for agriculture and aquaculture.
- NRIC submitted its FY 2006 4<sup>th</sup> quarterly report and annual report for FY2006.

## **TASK 2: ACTIVITY AND PROJECT TRACKING**

*Under Task 2, NRIC collects data on NRM-related activities and expenditures, tracks field support provided by the NRMO, and provides analysis and reporting based on these data.*

### **Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act**

The water technical specialist and the water team leader sent missions and DC-based operating units requests for water obligations data. To date, response has been slow due to the concurrent operation planning process. The collected data will be used in what is expected to be an expanded report to Congress in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of FY 2007. This publication will give an overview of the current USAID portfolio of projects in water resources management. The water obligations data will also be used in an inter-agency report to Congress on behalf of the Department of State and USAID in compliance with the reporting requirements for the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005.

### **Country Water Profiles**

The water technical specialist developed an initial draft of country water profiles for USAID missions. These country water profiles are intended to give an overview of the current conditions in the water resources sector, ongoing donor activities, and USAID investments.

## **TASK 3: WEB MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

*NRIC designs, produces, and maintains web sites and pages for the NRMO.*

NRIC's webmaster continued to maintain web pages for NRMO on three different web sites: the public web site ([www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)), the NRIC web site, and the EGAT Intranet.

### **Public web site**

NRIC's webmaster continued to provide support to the NRMO by submitting updates and new content to LPA for USAID's public site. In addition, at the request of the LAC Bureau, new content developed by members of its Environment Team was created to supplement the web presence for their pages on the Amazon Basin Conservation Initiative.

During this quarter, NRIC’s webmaster and water technical specialist developed new content for the Water sector on USAID’s public site. Specifically, 4 new pages and 1 new associated module were posted regarding USAID’s contract mechanisms for the Water IQC II and Leaders With Associates awards. In addition to continued maintenance of existing content, a new report, *Land-Based Pollution (2006)*, was added as well as a fact sheet on the Water IQC II.

At the request of the NRMO’s Biodiversity and Forestry Team (B/F team), all pages and associated content regarding species conservation were retired. They included pages on gorillas, orangutans, cheetahs, neotropical migratory birds, and a general overview of species conservation. It is anticipated that additional content for the Biodiversity sector will be added in the final quarter of NRIC’s operation to include pages on the Global Conservation Program, cross-sectoral partnerships, and U.S. Foreign Assistance in regards to NRM. Also, new content to supplement content on USAID’s biodiversity conservation approaches will be added.

During this quarter, NRIC’s webmaster continued to make minor modifications to existing content for all sectoral pages supported by the NRMO. Updates included modifying a number of pages and associated modules to reflect cross-sectoral linkages within Biodiversity, Forestry, Land Management and Water pages, as well as within other sectoral areas on USAID’s public site. A new *Communications and Sustainable Tourism* proceedings report was also posted for the Land Management sector.

Finally, at the request of USAID’s Latin America and Caribbean Bureau, NRIC’s webmaster updated 2 existing pages on the Amazon Basin Conservation Initiative (ABCI) (under the Amazon Basin special initiative) and posted 7 new pages explaining the Amazon Basin award announcement, its program overview, and profiles of its consortia and secretariat.

To date, total content maintained and/or developed for [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) by NRIC is as follows:

Sectors	HTML Content pages	Associated Modules
Biodiversity	22	6
Forestry	28	11
Land Management	2	3
Water	35	7
Amazon Basin Conservation Initiative	9	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>27</b>

### NRIC web site

During this quarter, NRIC’s webmaster continued to update and maintain the NRIC web site. At the request of NRMO’s B/F Team, the Global Conservation Program page and its associated presentations were removed from the site. New postings included a presentation titled *Sustainable Tourism at the Rainforest Alliance* and a new report, *Communications and Sustainable Tourism: Proceedings of the Global e-Conference and Summer Speaker Series on the Role of Development Communication in Sustainable Tourism*.

In anticipation of NRIC’s final closeout activities, minor editorial changes were made to the site during this quarter. This was done as part of NRIC’s preparation to revamp the majority of its content on Sustainable Tourism and the Poverty Reduction and Natural Resources Management Seminar Series for migration to USAID’s public site under the Land Management sector.

In addition, bi-monthly WebTrends reports for the site were submitted to NRIC’s CTO for the periods August 1, 2006–September 30, 2006, and October 1, 2006–November 30, 2006.

## **USAID Intranet**

During this period, no changes were made.

## **TASK 4: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

*NRIC acquires, organizes and archives information about USAID natural resources projects and related cross-sector activities. Also, it distributes information, lessons learned, and other tools over the Internet.*

In the first quarter of FY 2007, the total number of project records in the NRM Online Library remained unchanged at 578. NRIC added 7 documents to the library, bringing the total number of documents to 4,117. The number of images remained the same (380).

NRIC responded to information requests on future USAID-funded sustainable tourism events and internships, a survey questionnaire targeted to people working in tourism in Ghana and Ghanaian institutions, and general information on projects in Zambia. Additional responses were also provided to individuals seeking documentation on the Zambia Trade and Investment project and the Senegal Reforestation Project.

In anticipation of NRIC's closeout in March 2007, during this quarter, NRIC staff transferred all hard copy library holdings to 1325 G Street, NW, Washington, DC. Until the end of its contract, NRIC staff will remain as the point-of-contact to handle all information requests.

## **TASK 5: PLANNING**

*Under Task 5 NRIC supports planning and special project activities within the NRMO and teams.*

The NRIC team provided no significant planning activities during the first quarter of FY 2007.

## **TASK 6: CONFERENCE, TRAINING, AND COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT**

*Under Task 6 NRIC prepares materials and provides logistic support for conferences, meetings, workshops and training activities. Also produces communications and outreach materials for the NRM Office and teams.*

### **Sustainable Tourism**

NRIC posted PowerPoint presentations and readings from a speaker series hosted by USAID as a follow-on to the June USAID/World Bank/UN World Tourism Organization e-conference on communication and sustainable tourism onto the Sustainable Tourism web pages at [www.nric.net](http://www.nric.net). In addition, NRIC revised and edited a World Bank-produced draft summation of the original e-conference, and merged content from the two events for a publication that was presented and distributed at the October World Congress on Communication for Development in Rome.

### **Other Communications Products**

NRIC supported the B/F team write and edit a draft version of the biodiversity code issue brief.

## TASK 7: NRIC PROJECT PLANNING, MONITORING, AND REPORTING

During the first quarter, the NRIC CoP continued to work with her USAID CTO counterpart to plan budget scenarios for the final months of the NRIC contract, scheduled to end March 7, 2007. It is anticipated that the current long-term staff will remain with the project at their current LOE until March 2007. The CoP had discussions with the CTO regarding project close-out and gained approval for the disposition of the NRM Library and other NRM materials currently housed in the NRIC office. Approval was also granted to move the [www.nric.net](http://www.nric.net) website to a new contractor. This transfer will take place in the second quarter. A vision and schedule for the NRIC Final Report was agreed upon with the CTO. A draft of this document will be delivered in Q2 FY 2007.

## NEXT QUARTER

In the second quarter of FY 2007, NRIC will support technical teams with ongoing activities. No new activities are anticipated, but support will be available if needed. Potential activities include:

- **NRM Office**

Following discussions with the CTO in the first quarter of 2007 regarding project close-out, all web pages on [www.nric.net](http://www.nric.net) are being edited as needed and transferred to [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) and the Natural Resources Management web portal.

NRIC began drafting the close-out report for the NRIC contract during the first quarter. A draft of the report will be submitted to the CTO for review and a final report produced for internal NRMO use.

- **Forestry and Biodiversity Teams**

The forestry and biodiversity specialist will work with the B/F Team to: (1) print and distribute to appropriate Congressional staff the *Foreign Assistance Act, Section 118: Tropical Forests FY 2005* report, if it is approved by LPA and F; (2) print and distribute the *Biodiversity and Forestry Programs, FY 2005* report if it is approved by LPA and F; (3) implement Biodiversity external web site re-design; and (4) prepare for distribution as appropriate an issues brief on the Biodiversity Code; and (5) work with Forestry Team members to re-initiate the Extended Forestry Team monthly presentations.

- **Water Team**

The water technical specialist plans to: (1) complete a draft of the FY 2006 Report to Congress; (2) Complete a final draft of the country water profiles, including expanded coverage and summary statistics for reference by USAID staff for planning and reporting activities; and (3) complete 15 new web pages for the public USAID website; (4) complete transferring all files and publications to the contractor responsible for follow-on work supporting the Water Team after the NRIC project ends.

- **Land Team (and Tourism)**

NRIC staff incorporated USAID comments on the revised report, *Human Rights and Responsibilities in Biodiversity Conservation Settings: Issues and Opportunities*. Publication of the document has been put on hold pending further analysis by the NRM Office of intended use and audience.

In the second quarter of 2007, NRIC will produce 350 copies of the final report, *Issues in Poverty Reduction and Natural Resource Management*.

- **USAID Public Site ([www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov))**

For the next quarter, a suite of pages on Sustainable Tourism and the Poverty Reduction and Natural Resources Management Seminar series from [www.nric.net](http://www.nric.net) will be posted under the Land Management sector on USAID's public site.

- **NRIC Web Site**

The bulk of content for Poverty Reduction and for Sustainable Tourism currently available on [www.nric.net](http://www.nric.net) will be posted onto [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) to supplement the web presence for Land Resources Management. The complete content for these pages (including access to the searchable database) will remain intact in a parallel posting that will be maintained by another NRMO contractor after NRIC close-out.

- **USAID Intranet**

No changes anticipated at this time.