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Biodiversity Support Program

Final Semi-Annual Progress Report

October 1, 2000 - March 31, 2001



June 15, 2001

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CONTENTS

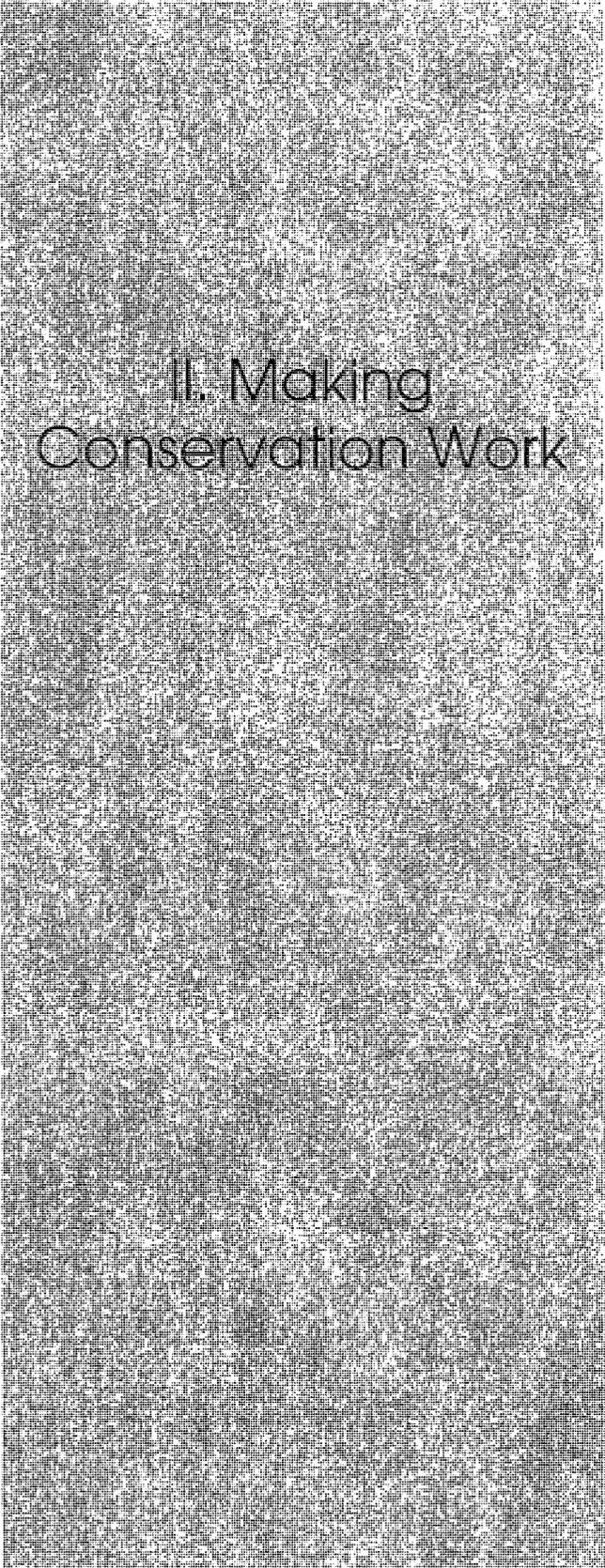
I. Introduction	7
II. Making Conservation Work	9
Africa and Madagascar	11
Asia and the Pacific	15
Eastern Europe	23
Latin America and the Caribbean	27
III. Doing Conservation Better	35
Analytical Topics	37
Crosscutting Themes	39
IV. BSP Legacy - Communications Program	41
V. Staff Travel and Outreach	43

I. INTRODUCTION

Since 1989, the Biodiversity Support Program (BSP) has promoted conservation of the world's biological diversity, believing that a healthy and secure living resource base is essential to meeting the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.

Working across a mosaic of biologically diverse landscapes in Africa and Madagascar, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe, BSP has supported initiatives in many countries to promote biodiversity conservation.

During this reporting period BSP has been moving towards closeout, with staggered end dates for different programs. The Latin America and Caribbean Program and Analysis and Adaptive Management Program closed at the end of December. The Africa and Madagascar, and Asia and Pacific Programs continued their analytical, capacity building and facilitation work, and closed their two major grants programs in KEMALA and CARPE. The Communications Program continued production of publications and other outreach activities, and detailed preparation for BSP's programmatic legacy. The Operations Program has increasingly focused on preparing for BSP's final closeout in December 2001.



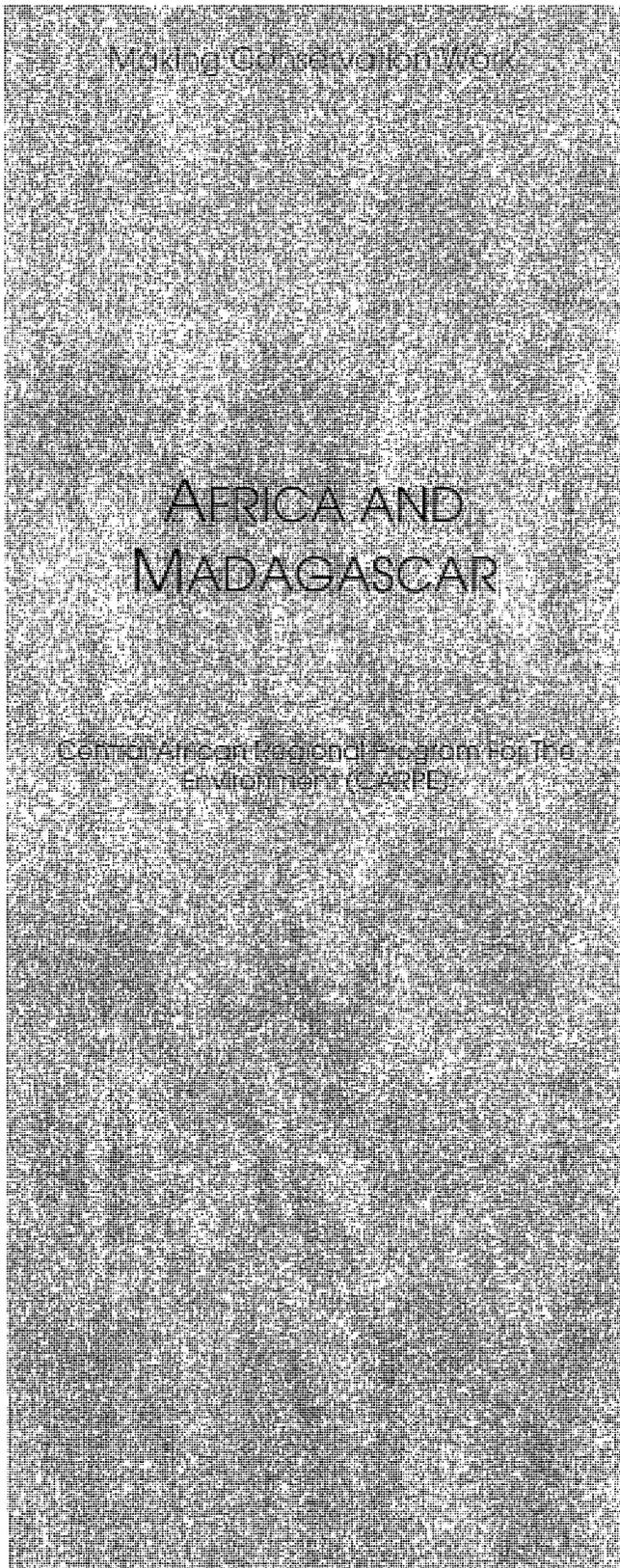
II. Making Conservation Work

Africa and Madagascar

Asia and the Pacific

Eastern Europe

Latin America and the Caribbean



Over the past six months, the Africa and Madagascar Program has had relatively little activity under this agreement as its projects are now funded under a separate cooperative agreement with USAID Bureau for Africa, Office of Sustainable Development (AFR/SD). There have been some results in CARPE from funding in previous years under the G/ENV/ENR cooperative agreement, mostly from grants. We are working to ensure that these and other results and lessons from the Africa and Madagascar Program are incorporated into our multi-faceted legacy (see Communication section).

Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE)

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome e Principe

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/University of Virginia, 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

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 implemented by 13 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 focus of the project has been on biodiversity, forest policy and management, environmental governance, and management by communities. BSP operates a regional field office in Gabon and focal points in Cameroon and DRC 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

Although funding under the G/ENV/ENR agreement has now ceased, some new results have come in from grants previously issued under this agreement. The Conférence sur les Ecosystèmes de Forêts Denses et Humides d'Afrique Centrale (CEFDHAC) used final funding to follow up on its third Conference and to ensure its contribution and links with the Yaounde Summit Process. The Sangha River Network (SRN), which promotes communication among international, national and local specialists working in transboundary conservation and development, maintained its website with CARPE support. This site serves as a forum for news, scholarly exchange, conference updates, and online debate of management topics and strategies for its members.

A model for assessing economic and environmental impacts of applying market instruments in the logging sector in Central Africa was finalized. The impact of logging on genetic selection within Okoume forests in La Lope, Gabon, was completed and results are being reported in a PhD thesis.

The results of most of the studies funded under the Grants Program in the first phase of CARPE are now available. They have been compiled and disseminated to a wide range of audiences in Africa and elsewhere. Grantees' reports are available in the libraries of the Field Office and Focal Points, and on the CARPE website. Brown bags were organized both in the region and in Washington DC. Special efforts have been

made to allow Central African grantees to present their findings and lessons learned, with a strong national media coverage. The most important communication medium for CARPE Phase 1 results is a series of 25 Issue Briefs and 8 Regional Briefs, which synthesize results from CARPE partners and grantees. They will be published later this summer (with funds through the AFR/SD cooperative agreement).

BSP was engaged in designing and implementing a transition plan and in the handing over of its functions including the management of the Advisory Group, the Field Office, the Strategic Objective Team, and the Analytical Framework.

Making Conservation Work

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Ban Udyam - Forest Enterprise

Biodiversity Conservation Prioritization Project
(BCPP)

KEMALA

Peoples, Forests & Reefs (PeFoR)

DC-ENV Linkages Initiative

During this reporting period, BSP Asia and Pacific program managed projects in Nepal and in Indonesia, where they focused on policy analysis and improving on-the-ground conservation best practices. The PeFoR program shared lessons learned at a roundtable attended by donors and Indigenous Peoples from around the world. Emerging from the PeFoR program the integral links between governance and environment issues were recognized, resulting in a series of roundtables in Washington to discuss cross-sectoral collaboration.

In Nepal, the Ban Udyam (BU) project continued to identify and assess constraints and opportunities of essential oil and other NTFP production and marketing for the benefit of local community forest user groups (CFUGs).

The priority-setting methodology developed by the Biodiversity Conservation Prioritization Project (BCPP) project in India has had a significant influence on India's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The final BCPP two-volume publication, which summarizes outcomes of the project's work, was published. A summary piece, condensing the lessons from the final BCPP publication, is expected to be published within the next four months.

KEMALA's continued efforts to build capacity among its more than thirty partners have resulted in more than 60,000 hectares being added to the growing list of sites which have reached the adaptive management criteria. This brings the total of sites to more than 360,000 hectares in West Kalimantan, East Kalimantan, Central Sulawesi and West Papua. Their partners are increasingly dealing more successfully with numerous outside threats, especially from forest conversion and commercial operations.

PeFoR co-sponsored a roundtable in Denmark entitled "Indigenous Peoples and Biodiversity Governance: Donor Best

Practices for Supporting Civil Society and Conservation”, in its continuing efforts to promote cultural and biological diversity around the globe. A sector review of Indigenous Peoples and the biodiversity sector will be finalized later this year.

The Environment-Democracy/Governance Exchange (EDGE) series began as a new innovative discussion series which aims to encourage dialogue and collaboration among USAID ENV and DG colleagues, and to expand expertise on operationalizing these linkages. This series will culminate in a workshop in May to focus on “Constituents, Conflict and Corruption”.

Ban Udyam - Forest Enterprise

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Nepal

ACTIVE GRANTS/CONTRACTS

New ERA, IIE

COLLABORATORS

CARE-Nepal, WWF-Nepal

FUNDING

\$2.2 million
(USAID/Nepal)

DATES

8/1/96-12/31/01

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 sustainable forest management practices, 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 (CFUGs).

A field testing of the forest inventory method developed by BU was conducted by EFEA partners to verify its effectiveness. The group clearly identified the advantages of BU's relascope method over HMG's guidelines. A comparative test will be conducted between the two methods later in 2001.

The jatamansi oil distillation enterprise in the high Himalayan district of Dolpa produced its first test samples of oil, following instillation of equipment. Collector groups received further training in sustainable harvesting techniques, and enterprise staff were trained in the operation and maintenance of the equipment. An analysis of the biomass fuel requirements for the enterprise was completed.

Consultant work to develop and implement a sampling methodology for a forest biomass indicator in the community forests of the EFEA region was completed. Results of the study, which were requested by USAID/Nepal, were delivered to the Mission. Various staff within the Department of Forestry, CARE forestry extension staff, BU field coordinators and CFUG members were trained in the biomass estimation technique. The methodology gives USAID a quick, effective means of determining forest biomass trends in the EFEA region, as well as a baseline assessment.

A technical assistance study to review policy and regulatory constraints to NTFP trade was completed. Results of the study were disseminated and discussed at a January roundtable by community forestry representatives, academics, officials of the Ministry of Forestry and Soil Conservation, representatives of bilateral community forestry projects, and USAID representatives.

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

2/1/95-10/31/00

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 (CBD).

DESCRIPTION

The Biodiversity Conservation Prioritization Project (BCPP) 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. In the BCPP, 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 CBD.

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 final BCPP book, summarizing the outcomes of the project's work, was published in December 2000.

A follow-up publication, which aims to disseminate the BCPP lessons to a larger audience by extrapolating the results and generalising them, is due for publication in the summer of 2001.

KEMALA

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Indonesia

ACTIVE GRANTS/CONTRACTS

Multiple

COLLABORATORS

Multiple

LOP FUNDING

\$10.5 million
(USAID/Indonesia)

DATES

8/1/96-12/31/01

PURPOSE

To build a network of well informed, technically competent, creative, and politically active individuals and NGOs concerned with community-based natural resource management across Indonesia; 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 natural resources management (NRM) program that link individuals and organizations across Indonesia and build coalitions that are concerned with improving the governance of Indonesia's natural resources. 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 spatial-use planning, recognition of traditional agroforestry regimes, and community-based mapping. These coalitions are enabling the Indonesian government's efforts to decentralize biodiversity management. The KEMALA program recognizes that the environment and governance sectors are fundamentally linked. Environmental degradation can lead to political turmoil, and highly centralized, unresponsive political structures can result in the deterioration of the environment's inherent resilience. KEMALA functions as a model of how a grants program can address governance from the grass roots up. KEMALA partners receive grants and direct technical assistance in order to

build a more decentralized and responsive biodiversity conservation governance structure.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

All KEMALA partners have invested intensively in building up relationships, communications and cooperation with each other and the communities they are serving. They are now increasingly inclined to exchange experiences and collaborate on projects. With the political and social situation in Indonesia currently in a state of flux and with the many uncertainties now present, exchange of information and cooperation have become particularly important.

There is a growing trend among many KEMALA partners to reposition their role within community politics. They are moving from the role of decision-maker, implementor of change, and representative, to seeing themselves as facilitating and supporting the communities to take on such roles directly. Instead of NGOs filling the political space that has emerged in the reform agenda, many partners are seeing their mission as enabling communities to utilize this space, and to build a wider movement of linked communities able to do this. For example, the local district government in Sanggau, West Kalimantan has formally adopted the draft local regulation on village governance developed by Pancur Kasih NGO networks and ELSAM, which establishes the village kampung as the basic unit for governance with executive functions undertaken by the head of the kampung, legislative functions by the Village Representative Body, and judicial functions by local adat institutions.

KEMALA partner *Yayasan Tanah Merdeka (YTM)* in Palu has concentrated their mapping activities in the area around Lake Lindu. These community maps are used as evidence that the community has their own policies and practices in managing the natural resources in the enclave areas. As a result of the mapping process, the Head of the Lore Lindu National Park Agency has recognized traditional and communal natural resources management in 20,250 hectares.

REMAPPALA, a local NGO in Palu, Central Sulawesi, and a member of the KEMALA partner *JKPP* network, guided community mapping in Anoi Donggala at the request of the Anoi people, who were trying to deal with a company that was planning to build a road through their *adat* forest.

The Anoi were concerned that the building of the road would open up 400 hectares for a private plantation inside their *adat* area. REMAPPALA facilitated the Anoi people to meet with regional and local forestry officials, who, after hearing the concerns of the Anoi and seeing the maps, canceled the permit for the road.

Part of LATIN's efforts to revise the Forestry Law and community forest decree SK 677 have been to assist the Department of Forestry's unit on community forestry to facilitate meetings and strategic planning on site, as well as to develop principles, criteria and indicators for improved community forestry management. LATIN stressed the need to identify community managed areas, by first establishing the bases for sustainable livelihood, territory, social and ecosystem integrity. They suggested that three basic regulations are needed: one to determine the community managed areas; one that sets up the authority and control of the village over these resources and; one that transfers control of local budgets to the village to manage their development using their own resources. The Department of Forestry and local governments have continued to ask for LATIN's assistance to facilitate strategic planning facilitation in 21 sites.

BSP commissioned research to explore ways to communicate the cross-sectoral linkages between the environment and the democracy/governance sectors in order to catalyze greater awareness of the links and to stimulate greater synergy. The ensuing report, using USAID/Indonesia as a case-study, is due out in the summer of 2001. This research also served to precipitate dialogue between various environment and governance constituencies during a series of roundtables held in Washington DC entitled the Environment-Democracy/Governance Exchange (EDGE) series.

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

10/01/93-12/31/01

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.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

PeFoR produced recommendations for donor best practices from a RoundTable -- "Indigenous Peoples and Biodiversity Governance: Donor Best Practices for Supporting Civil Society and Conservation" -- they co-sponsored in Denmark. Participants from around the world, representing donor views, indigenous perspectives and support networks, met for two

days to produce a set of recommendations to enable more effective collaboration. Recognizing that there is great diversity among donors and among Indigenous Peoples, these general recommendations can serve as the basis for dialogue to develop best practices and best partnerships in particular circumstances.

Consultants completed work on a sector review for South and South East Asia which presents opportunities for investment, lessons learned, and recommendations to donors. This will be incorporated into a global sector review of Indigenous Peoples and Biodiversity Governance to be completed later this year.

* Global program

DG-ENV Linkages Initiative

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

N/A

ACTIVE GRANTS/CONTRACTS

Consultants

COLLABORATORS

USAID/G/ENV, USAID/G/DG, USAID/AFR-SD, USAID/Indonesia

LOP FUNDING

\$92,000

DATES

7/1/99-12/31/01

PURPOSE

To increase awareness of the diverse opportunities to create ENV-DG synergies, regardless of the activity scale and scope, or level of management. To demonstrate how attention to ENV-DG synergies has led to better results for both ENV and DG sectors. To provide an opportunity for dialogue about how to operationalize and institutionalize ENV-DG cross-sectoral programming.

DESCRIPTION

The DG-ENV Linkages Initiative is designed to promote awareness of the links between governance and environmental management, both within USAID and among NGOs. The initiative is based on the premise that as democracy promotes good governance, this in turn ensures better conservation of biodiversity and the environment. The conservation community can strengthen civil society and enhance pluralism, necessary prerequisites to good environmental management.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

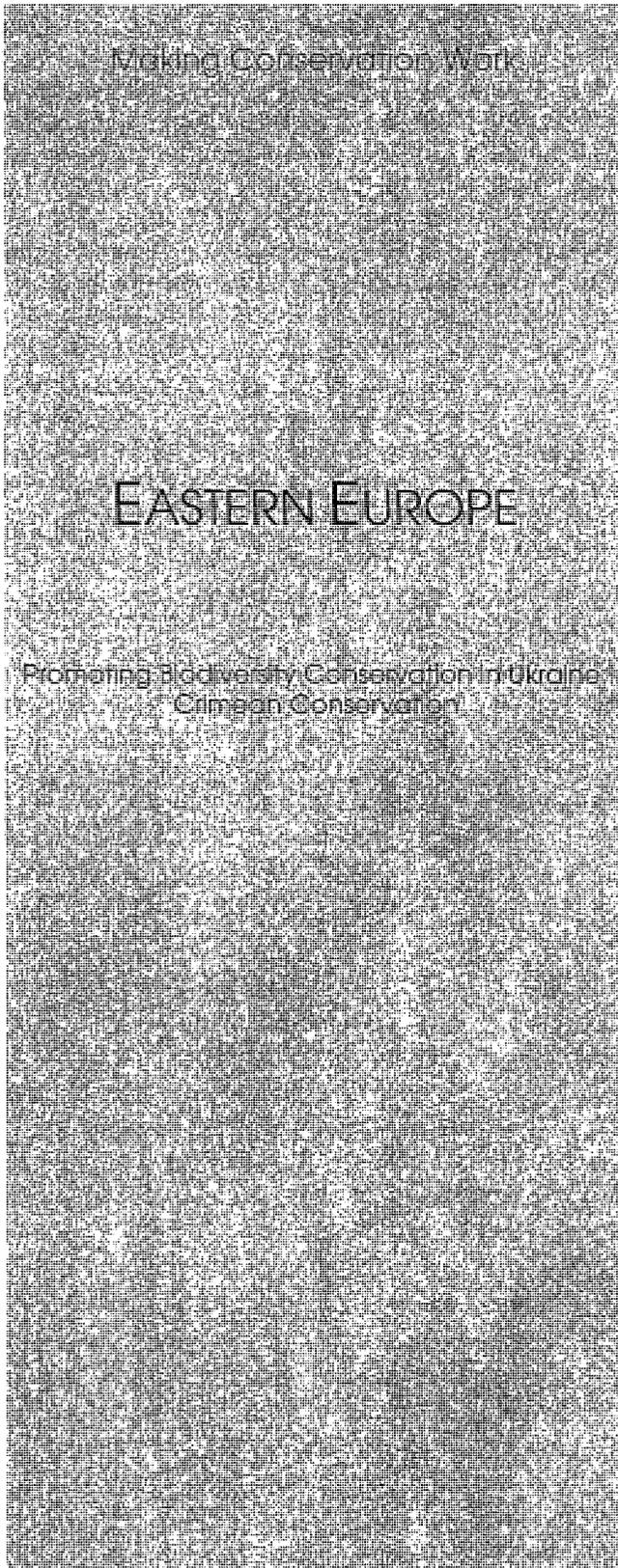
A "Greening Democracy and Governing the Environment" workshop for USAID was held in July, 2000 with one hundred participants. A case book of 17 examples where AID projects have used synergies between DG and ENV to achieve dual objectives in one project was prepared.

As a follow-on, BSP co-sponsored a series of roundtables - entitled Environment-Democracy/Governance Exchange (EDGE) - to create recognition of the value of building further momentum behind cross-sectoral collaboration. EDGE was a five-part series of discussion roundtables to promote in-depth dialogue on specific issues faced by individuals and organizations involved in environment and democracy-governance work. Topics covered included addressing the factors leading to increased DG activities by the ENV sector, the links between natural resource corruption and DG, the links between human rights, indigenous rights and environmental issues, and advocating for rural rights and livelihood. The final EDGE roundtable in April 2001 will unpack DG terminology and frameworks.

As a complement to the EDGE series, BSP is organizing a workshop entitled "Constituents, Conflicts and Corruption: Adapting Democratic Governance Tools to Conservation Situations" at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace for May, 2001. This workshop - known as the Three C's Workshop - will bring together members of the conservation community with DG resource people in order to: enable participants to explore the connections between democratic governance and conservation results; give participants an opportunity to learn about useful tools for analyzing and addressing governance issues, and meet colleagues who can assist them to use democratic governance approaches to reach conservation objectives; and, provide participants with group and expert feedback on specific constituency building, conflict resolution and corruption issues that affect their conservation projects.

BSP is also putting together a resource toolkit, which will be given to participants of the Three C's Workshop. This resource book will contain available cross-sectoral tools to analyze and achieve the synergies between conservation and governance results.

The BSP website contains the case book and summary arising from the July, 2000 workshop for USAID, as well as the EDGE summaries.



BSP's activities in Eastern Europe have largely concluded. A single follow-on grant has been active for work related to the Crimean Conservation Needs Assessment. The grant was awarded to the Association for the Promotion of Biodiversity in Crimea, a local NGO that formed in response to BSP's work in the region. With the grant, the Association has conducted detailed reconnaissance of all 50 priority sites identified for consideration of potential conservation action. Association members met with local communities in the vicinity of priority areas, paying particular attention to local decision makers and government officials. Sites were surveyed and mapped, local threats to biodiversity identified, and potential follow-up assessed. With the activities of the Association, local leaders and community members, government officials, and other interested parties have had an opportunity to discuss both the promise and potential problems surrounding designation of priority sites as formal conservation areas.

Promoting Biodiversity Conservation in Ukraine: Crimean Conservation Needs Assessment

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Ukraine

FUNDING

\$445,000.00
(USAID/Kyiv)

DATES

9/09/96-12/31/00

COLLABORATORS

Crimea Republic State Committee of
Environment Natural Resources Protection

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 for 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 Black Sea 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, major habitat zones, and 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:

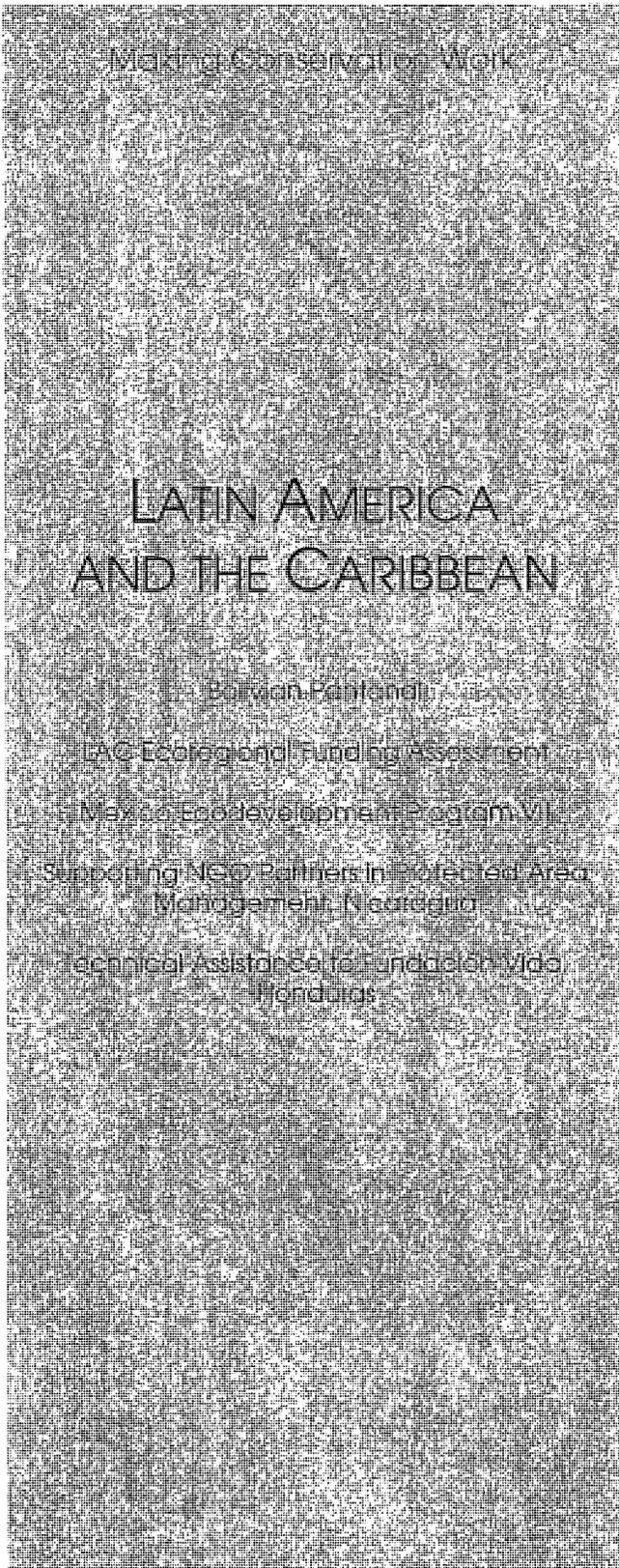
- Pre-workshop planning meetings and consultations (beginning July 1997)
- Public workshop to discuss geographic and thematic priorities for biodiversity conservation in Crimea (November 1997)
- Formation of a post-workshop publication group and meeting (July 1998)
- Production of a dual-language (Russian/English) publication with 13 maps (Fall 1999)

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

BSP's direct involvement in the Crimean Conservation Needs Assessment (CNA) has concluded. However, a follow-on grant awarded to the Association for the Promotion of Biodiversity in Crimea has continued BSP's legacy on the project. The Association formed in the last year of BSP's involvement in Crimea to promote the results and findings of the Crimean CNA. Comprised of 14 NGO's, the

Association has dedicated itself to promoting action based on the findings of the CNA Workshop in a manner consistent with BSP's style of operation, which stressed broad participation, open and transparent deliberations, and multi-disciplinary involvement.

With BSP's grant, the Association conducted detailed reconnaissance of all 50 priority sites identified in the CNA. Small teams of Association members visited local communities in the vicinity of priority sites, where they explained the process and findings of the priority setting exercise. Copies of the final publication were presented for inclusion in the local library. Local leaders, government officials and community members were encouraged to ask questions and share their views, as well as learn about the significance of their local natural area and the rationale behind its selection as a priority site. As part of the reconnaissance, local threats, and issues concerning the current and future management of priority sites were identified. Potential follow-up actions were defined. In most cases, community meetings were covered by local and regional news media.



BSP's Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) program closed in December, 2000. Final project activities included the publication and dissemination of *Mapping Conservation Investments: An Assessment of Biodiversity Funding in Latin America and the Caribbean (¿Dónde se Invierte en Biodiversidad? Una Evaluación del Financiamiento para la Biodiversidad en America Latina y el Caribe)*. This bilingual publication examines the funding patterns for biodiversity in the region to ascertain funding gaps and encourage greater donor communication and awareness. Country-specific projects in Bolivia, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua were also completed during this reporting period. In Bolivia, the project contributed substantially to strengthening the local capacity of the communities in the protected areas of the Bolivian Pantanal. The project activities in Honduras were finalized with the completion of the strategic planning process with the staff of Fundación Vida. BSP also sponsored Vida's participation in the second assembly of the network of environmental trust funds in Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC) in Lima, Peru in October, 2000. In Mexico, the activities to strengthen the institutional capacity of Pronatura, A.C. as a Mexican conservation organization were completed. The Nicaragua project was closed with the distribution of the final proceedings from the BSP-facilitated ecotourism workshop conducted in June, 2000.

Through our publications, workshops, and capacity building processes, the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) program has worked to strengthen the institutions with whom we have worked so they are better equipped to conserve biodiversity in the region.

Bolivian Pantanal

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Bolivia

COLLABORATORS

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

FUNDING

\$385,000.00
(USAID/Bolivia)

DATES

09/01/98-09/30/00

PURPOSE

This project is focusing on 1) strengthening community involvement and participation in the management of the San Matias Protected Area in the Bolivian Pantanal (carried out by PROCESO, a Bolivian NGO) and 2) carrying out complementary biological research to allow a comprehensive assessment of the area's natural resources for future planning and management (carried out by the Noel Kempff Mercado Natural History Museum).

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Environmental education material was incorporated into the local school curricula with the development of a teacher manual and textbooks that introduce basic concepts about the environment and conservation in the Bolivia Pantanal. A final workshop was held in August, 2000 in Santo Corazon to train six park guards and certify environment promoters.

This biological research carried out by the Noel Kempff Mercado Natural History Museum included more detail in the description and characterization of the ecosystems of the protected areas than provided in previous research. Critical habitats and the species that require priority protection were identified, and the conservation status of every species and vegetation unit was evaluated. The result is an important contribution to the biodiversity knowledge of the Bolivian Pantanal. The information from the research will help in prioritizing conservation goals and providing suggestions for future zoning to be included in management plans.

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

07/01/98-08/31/00

PURPOSE

The Ecoregional Funding Assessment's goals are as follows:

- Learn where donor resources were directed within the LAC region during the period 1990 to 1997, and assist donors to better understand funding patterns for biodiversity in the region;
- Determine what gaps exist in funding priority ecoregions;
- Further educate donors on approaches to setting geographic priorities and the ecoregions currently needing support; and
- Encourage greater donor communication and awareness.

DESCRIPTION

In response to the need to determine where to focus biodiversity conservation efforts, various frameworks for geographic priority-setting in the LAC region have been developed over the past few years. The World Bank (WB) and 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.

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

During this reporting period, the final publication *Mapping Conservation Investments: An Assessment of Biodiversity Funding in Latin America and the Caribbean (¿Dónde se Invierte en Biodiversidad? Una Evaluación del Financiamiento para la Biodiversidad en América Latina y el Caribe)* was published and disseminated. This bilingual publication examines the funding patterns for biodiversity in the region in order to ascertain funding gaps, especially for high-priority ecoregions, to encourage greater donor communication and awareness. This unprecedented funding assessment was based on survey results collected from major donor organizations - bilateral and multilateral institutions, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, foundations, major research institutions and environmental trust funds.

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 to:

- Strengthen the institutional capacity of Pronatura, A.C. and its regional offices as a Mexican conservation organization with national impact, and
- Increase its capabilities to achieve conservation for high-priority conservation areas by extending the site-based learning from the Parks in Peril Program.

DESCRIPTION

The objectives of this project are 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.
- Using selected Parks in Peril sites as learning centers, provide tools and techniques to Pronatura's regional offices on ecoregional conservation strategies; planning for on-site conservation programs; and preparation of work plans, budgets, and long-term financial planning for protected areas.
- Assist selected Pronatura regional offices to develop 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.

These objectives will be accomplished through technical assistance and training provided by TNC, working in partnership with Pronatura.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The focus of the project was to support the institution Pronatura A.C. to be able to consolidate and provide national coordination and leadership. The project helped to build the collective conservation capacity of all the Pronatura affiliates to achieve conservation for high priority areas by extending the site-based learning from the Parks in Peril Program. An evaluation study was conducted covering the 10 years of work by Pronatura Peninsula Yucatan at the Reserva de la Biosfera Calakmul. Many of the institutional processes included an identification of indicators and a baseline assessment of performance, most importantly in the areas of conservation planning, implementation and impact, and leadership at the level of the board and program directors. These assessments resulted in baseline information upon which future improvement and progress will be measured.

Supporting NGO Partners In Protected Area Management, Nicaragua

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Nicaragua

COLLABORATORS

MARENA, ARD, Inc.

FUNDING

\$100,000.00
(USAID/Nicaragua)

DATES

07/01/98-07/31/00

PURPOSE

To build the ecotourism capacity of stakeholders involved in the development of Nicaragua's protected area system.

DESCRIPTION

After delays caused by Hurricane Mitch in November 1998 and the focus by the mission on the CO-MAP (formerly BIOFOR) project, it has now been agreed that BSP will organize a workshop on ecotourism for the principal stakeholders of six protected areas. These stakeholders will be representatives of NGOs, local landowners, and government officials. BSP will coordinate with ARD, the lead contractor of the CO-MAP project, during the planning and implementation of the workshop.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

A workshop designed to be an introduction to ecotourism for stakeholders from five of Nicaragua's protected areas was held in June, 2000 at the Biological Research Station on the Island of Ometepe, Nicaragua. Participants included representatives from the communities of the protected areas of El Chocoyero (Ticuantepé, Managua), Isla de Juan Venado (León), Cerro Musún (Río Blanco, Matagalpa), Cosiguina (El Viejo, Chinandega), and Playa La Flor (San Juan del Sur, Rivas) as well as representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA), Nicaragua Tourism Institute, the private sector and environmental NGOs. The objective of the workshop was to explore the concept of and identify opportunities for ecotourism so that each team could better understand its impact to be able to develop action plans for their site. Participants worked in groups to develop an inventory of resources and potential ecotourist

attractions for their protected area in order to help them design their own action plan for the co-management of their particular protected area. Proceedings from the workshop were printed and distributed to all participants.

Technical Assistance to Fundación VIDA, Honduras

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Honduras

COLLABORATORS

Fundación Acceso, The Nature Conservancy

FUNDING

\$260,528.00
(USAID/Honduras)

DATES

7/01/98-06/30/00

PURPOSE

To provide short-term technical assistance and training 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 U.S. \$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 nonprofit 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.

BSP is providing technical assistance to Fundación Vida to accomplish the objectives and execute the activities identified in the 1998 work plan developed by USAID, BSP, and Fundación Vida.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

BSP staff participated in the final strategic planning workshop with Fundación Vida staff and board members, facilitated by Fundación Acceso. As a result of this participatory planning process, Fundación Vida redefined the focus of programmatic areas.

In September, Fundación Vida board and staff members attended a proposal writing seminar at the Foundation Center in Washington, D.C. During this time they also met with representatives from bilateral and multilateral organizations to discuss fundraising opportunities and financial mechanisms for Vida's economic sustainability.

In October, Fundación Vida staff attended the second assembly of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds (RedLAC) in Lima, Peru where they also participated in workshops on fundraising and financial strategic planning. Fundación Vida's financial director presented a case study based on their financial strategic planning results.

In June, 2001, the Honduran government recognized Fundación Vida as an organization that made significant contributions toward conservation and the protection of the environment by awarding it the "Premio Hondureño a la Conservación y Protección del Ambiente" (Honduran Conservation Award). In addition to the national recognition associated with the award, Fundación Vida received 100,000 Lempiras (equivalent US \$6,500).

III. DOING CONSERVATION BETTER

Analytical Topics

Crosscutting Themes

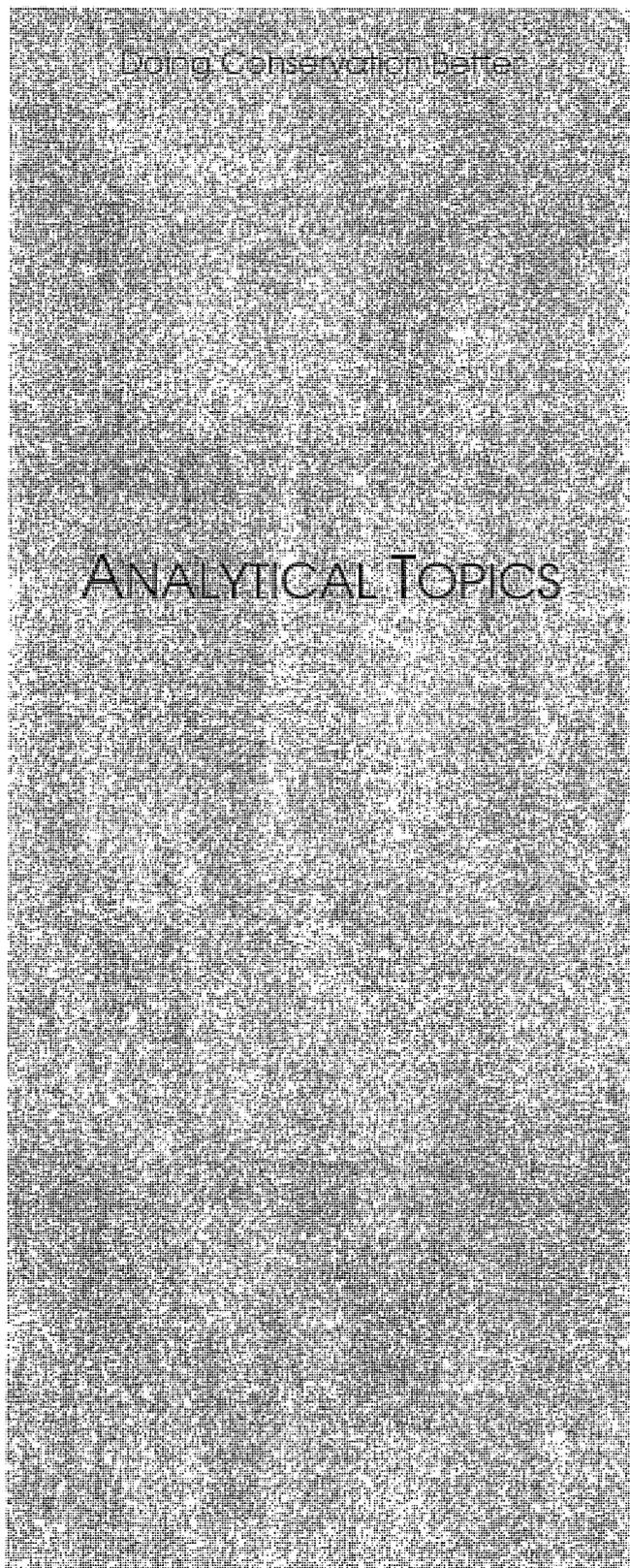
During this reporting period, the Analysis and Adaptive Management (AAM) program completed research on five analytical topics selected in collaboration with BSP's consortium partner organizations and USAID. The topics, considered key to meeting the needs of conservation and development practitioners to promote conservation objectives, are:

- Role of NGOs
- Decentralization and Partnerships for Biodiversity Conservation
- Adaptive Management
- Impact of Sustainable Agriculture on Biodiversity Conservation
- Health as an Incentive for Biodiversity Conservation

(The topic on Setting Biodiversity Conservation Priorities: Approaches and Impacts was cancelled.)

In addition to this research, the AAM team completed two themes that emerged from BSP's regional experiences: Grantmaking and Capacity-Building. (Research on a Coalition-Building theme was cancelled.) The crosscutting, retrospective studies offer lessons drawn from participant observations and project documentation on BSP's work around the world. The cumulative wealth of knowledge and principles derived from these studies will be shared with the greater conservation community.

Final results of the analytical topics and crosscutting themes will be published as part of the *Global Exploration Series*. Additionally, short, summary analyses of hot topics in conservation will be published as part of the *Lessons from the Field Series*. All publications will also be available on the Web at www.BSPonline.org.



ROLE OF NGOS

During this reporting period the first publication in the Global Exploration Series, *In Good Company: Effective Alliances for Conservation*, was completed and disseminated. This study analyzes the characteristics of effective NGOs and NGO alliances that work to conserve biodiversity. The study primarily centers on the roles that international, national, and local NGOs play in assisting in the implementation of conservation and development projects. The study sample focused on the 20 projects funded under BSP's Biodiversity Conservation Network (BCN) in Asia and the Pacific.

DECENTRALIZATION AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The second publication in the Global Exploration Series, *Shifting The Power: Decentralization and Biodiversity Conservation*, was produced during this reporting period. This study examines the processes and practices of decentralization in the context of biodiversity conservation and management. It addresses hypotheses, positing 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.

The 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. The six case studies were posted on the BSP web-site.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

BSP staff completed research for the Adaptive Management Analytical topic. 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 demonstrates under what conditions they have been successful. The study also presents practitioner-focused tools and approaches for promoting adaptive management of conservation and development projects. The publication, *Adaptive Management: A Tool For Conservation*

Practitioners is in the final editing stages and is scheduled to be produced in July.

IMPACT OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

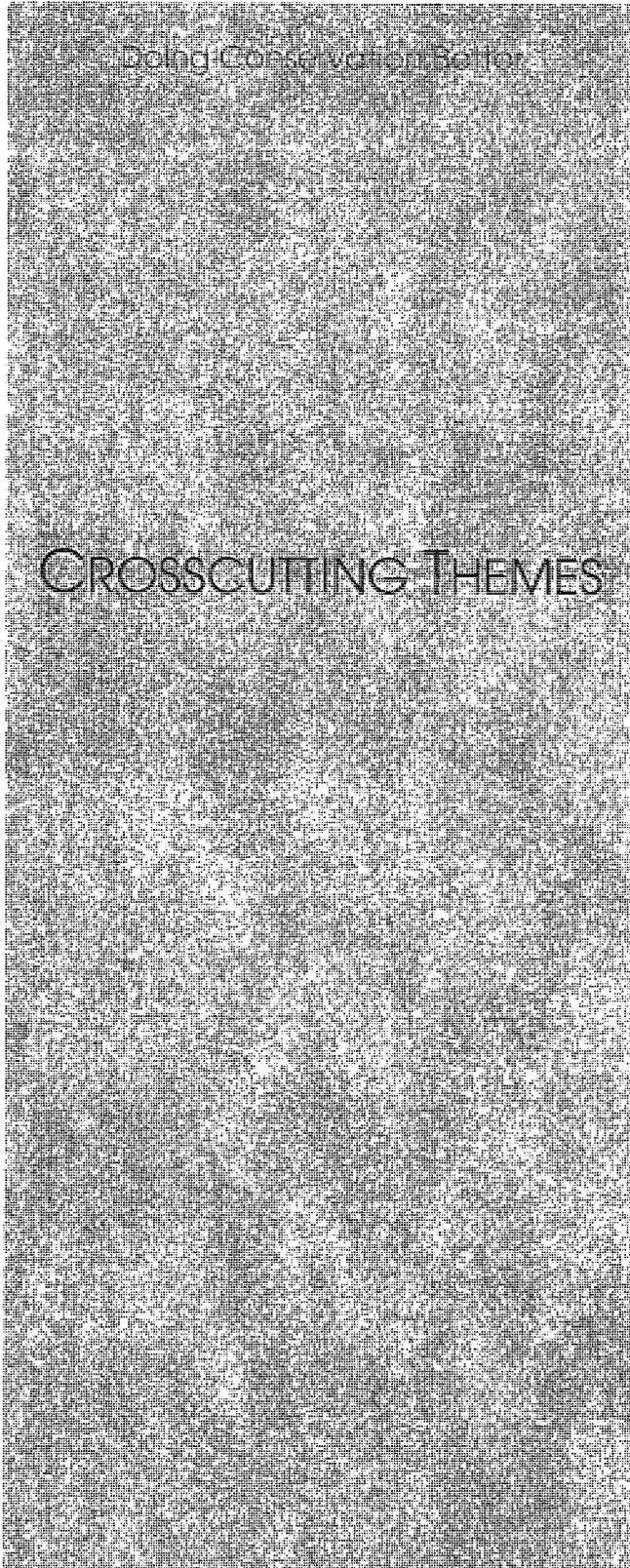
This AAM study analyzes the impacts of sustainable agriculture interventions on biodiversity conservation; reviews and evaluates the socioeconomic, policy and institutional conditions under which sustainable agriculture is most effective in achieving biodiversity conservation objectives; and determines 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 hosted a workshop with the two partners in Latin America who participated in the case studies: 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, where the final analysis was completed. The final publication *Maximum Yield?; Sustainable Agriculture as a Tool for Conservation* and the two case studies are in the final editing stages and scheduled for release in August.

HEALTH AS AN INCENTIVE FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

During this reporting period, AAM completed the research work on the analytical topic, Health as an Incentive for Biodiversity Conservation. This study examines the linkage between personal health and well-being and conservation. In collaboration with Conservation International's Healthy Communities Initiative (CI-HCI), AAM investigated the approaches HCI has taken to involve local community members in its health and conservation projects.

AAM and HCI staff visited two project sites in Peru and Guatemala to conduct key informant interviews in order to document HCI staff experience and insights related to combining health and conservation issues. *An Ounce of Prevention: Making the Link Between Health and Conservation* is in the final editing stages and is scheduled for release in June.

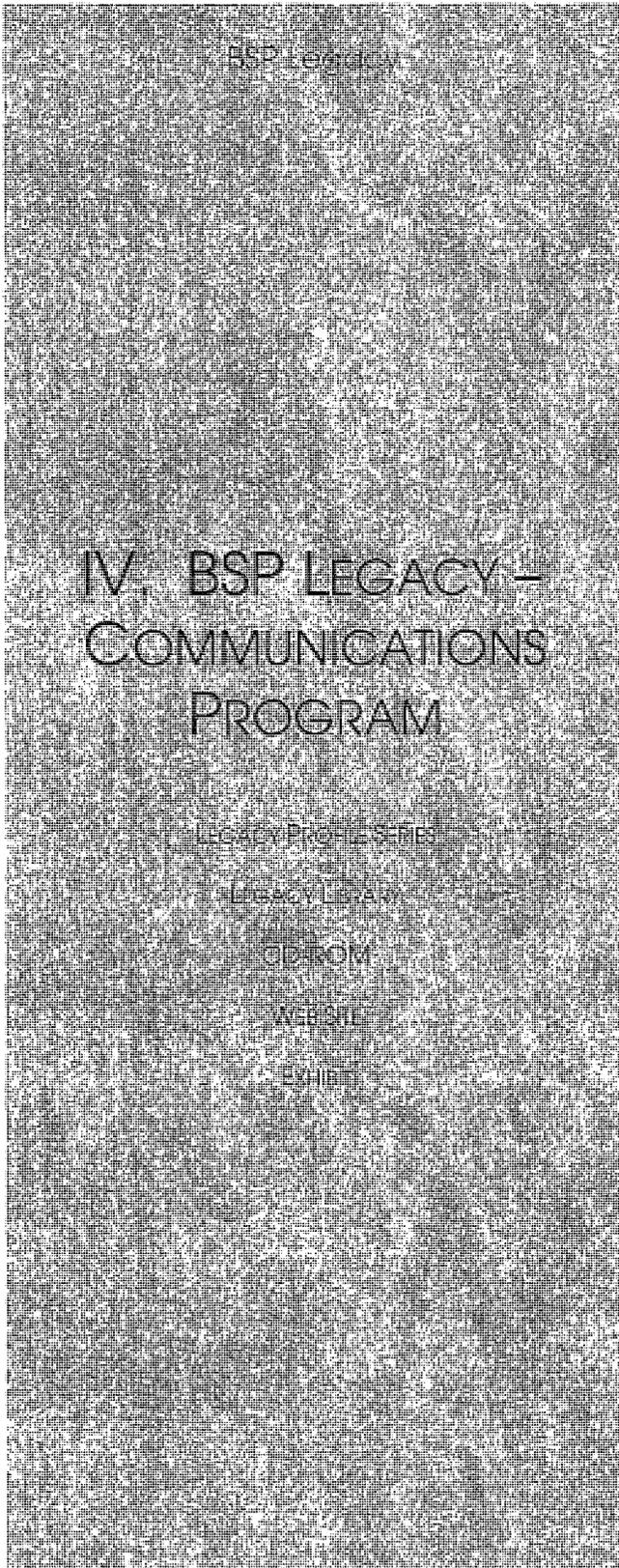


**POSITIVE REINFORCEMENTS:
EXPERIENCES IN BUILDING CAPACITY FOR
CONSERVATION**

Over the years BSP programs around the world have amassed considerable practical experience supporting a wide range of capacity building. BSP found that support for strengthening the capacities of project partners, especially of local and national NGOs and community-based organizations, is a vital step in working to promote sustainable biodiversity conservation. This study gathers and disseminates lessons about governance-associated, capacity-building activities, including their goals, methods, results, and conservation impacts. During this reporting period the results from this crosscutting theme were published on the BSP Web site.

**A VESTED INTEREST: DEVELOPING AND
MANAGING BSP'S GRANT PORTFOLIOS**

This crosscutting grantmaking theme explores some of BSP's larger, regional grantgiving programs in Ukraine, Indonesia, Central Africa, South and Southeast Asia, as well as BSP's worldwide Conservation Impact Grants (CIG) program. Over the years, BSP grant managers designed, developed, and managed grants programs that provided funding for hundreds of conservation-oriented grants and technical assistance for a large proportion of the grant recipients. During this reporting period, research was completed. The report, which features findings, lessons learned, and principles regarding this topic, is in the final production stage, scheduled to be released in August.



BSP's work has produced a wealth of data on options for integrating biodiversity conservation with social and economic development. The Communications Program has focused on outreach and communication to increase the conservation community's awareness of BSP's lessons from the field and to communicate with the wider public. The program publishes BSP's results and lessons and seeks to leverage opportunities to get the message out through other organizations and the media.

LEGACY PROFILE SERIES

BSP's monthly brown bag seminars have stimulated a discussion and exchange of ideas on key topics related to BSP's research and on-the-ground biodiversity conservation work around the globe. Environmental practitioners, researchers, and policymakers have been able to learn from the experiences of their colleagues across a range of issues. The Legacy Profile Series included the following topics:

2000:

- April - Moving Beyond Subsistence: Second Generation Issues of Community Forestry in Nepal
- May - Shifting the Power: Decentralization and Biodiversity Conservation
- June - Lessons from Home: Twelve Years of Coalitions, Capacity Building and Grantmaking
- July - Nature Knows No Boundaries: Study of Transboundary Natural Resource Management Areas in Southern Africa
- July - Maximum Yield?: Small-Farmer Sustainable Agriculture as a Tool For Conservation
- August - Project in Practice: An Evaluation of BSP's Biodiversity Monitoring and Evaluation (BIOME) Project
- September - Testing Ways to Integrate Local & National Conservation Priorities: Lessons & Results From India

- October - Vital Signs: Making the Link Between Health and Conservation
- November - Mapping's Magic
- December - Adaptive Management: Principles for Conservation Practitioners

2001:

- January - Linking Law to Environmental Justice: Experiences in Indonesia
- February - Sustainable Resource Use in Sub-Saharan Africa
- February - Taking Action to Manage and Conserve Forest Resources in the Congo Basin: Results and Lessons from the First Phase
- March - Checks and Balances: Keeping Environmental Projects Afloat During Democratic Transitions
- April - The Hundedest Recommendations: Best Practices Supporting Indigenous Peoples and Conservation
- May - Armed Conflict and the Environment

The series will close with the following topics:

- June - Effective Strategies for Transboundary Natural Resource Management Implementation
- September - Kemala

LEGACY LIBRARIES

BSP finalized the list of 100 libraries around the world that will receive full hard copy sets of BSP publications. This includes extra sets for Africa to ensure that there is a set in every country in sub-Saharan Africa. The Asia & Pacific Program's KEMALA office will manage a similar effort for publications produced in Bahasa Indonesian.

LEGACY CD-ROM

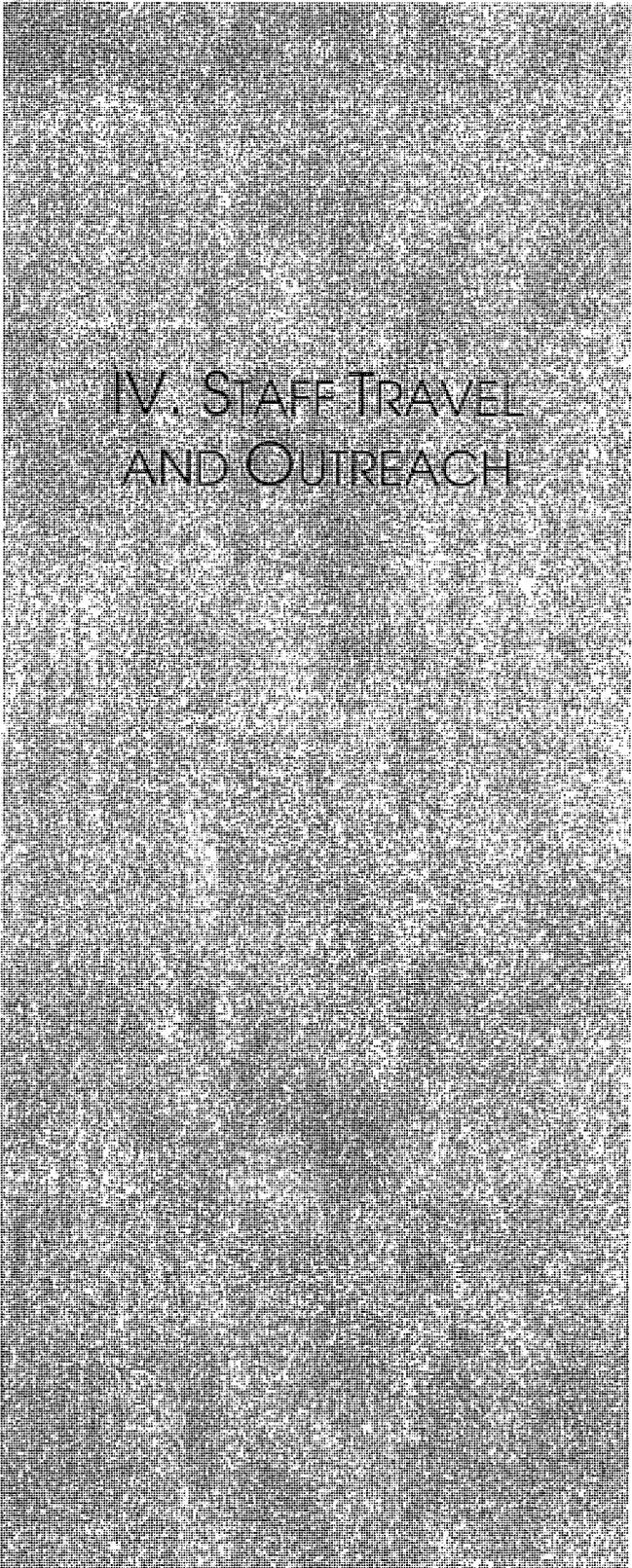
The focus of the Legacy CD-ROM will be the publications from BSPonline.org. BSP Communications is finalizing the design of the CD and its packaging and will implement a promotion plan to advertise the availability of these resources.

LEGACY WEB SITE

Plans are being refined for the Legacy (archived) site. Its focus will be the publications library. The BSP Web site (<http://www.BSPonline.org>) will be archived as part of the WWF-US Web site for a period not less than five years after the close of BSP. The BCN Web site will be folded into the BSP Web site.

BSP EXHIBIT

The BSP exhibit was displayed at a number of venues around the world and publications were disseminated. Venues included: Society for Conservation Biology annual meeting, Montana (June 2000); World Conservation Congress, Jordan (October 2000); Conference on Wildlife in the New Millennium, Tanzania (December 2000); and BSP brown bags.



IV. STAFF TRAVEL AND OUTREACH

During this reporting period, BSP staff traveled extensively to conduct research, provide technical assistance, participate in workshops, and share lessons learned with colleagues around the world.

Analysis and Adaptive Management (AAM) staff traveled to Guatemala and Peru to conduct research on specific analytical topics. BSP's regional program staff visited countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America. The purposes of their visits were wide-ranging--from providing technical assistance to partners to participating in conferences and workshops.

The staff's diverse travel demonstrates BSP's effectiveness as a neutral facilitator of processes and catalyst of new partnerships; a partner and resource to USAID; supporter of individual and institutional capacity-building; and analyst and communicator on biodiversity issues, strategies, and lessons.

Staff Travel: An Overview

BSP Staff Member	Date	Place Visited	Purpose
Judy Oglethorpe	06/00	Missoula, MT	Attended the Society for Conservation Biology's 14 th annual meeting.
	7/00	Burkina Faso	Attended the second Pan-African Symposium on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
	10/00	Jordan	Attended the World Conservation Congress.
	11/00	Adirondacks, NY	Attended the Learning Across Boundaries - Broad Scale Conservation Meeting at the Minnowbrook Institute.
Stephanie Hando	11/00	Gabon	Field office oversight and preparation for closeout.
Janis Alcorn	02/01	Indonesia	Attended KEMALA Forum. Reviewed field office progress.
	03/01	Denmark	Participated in PeFoR Round Table on Indigenous Peoples.
Valerie Hickey	10/00	Indonesia	Conducted field research for case study.
	11/00	Nepal UK	Provided Technical Assistance to Ban Udyam. Participated in initial discussions with IWGIA and FPP concerning PeFoR Roundtable on Indigenous Peoples.
	03/01	Denmark	Participated in PeFoR Round Table on Indigenous Peoples.
Patrick Maguire	11/00	Nepal	Provided technical assistance to Ban Udyam.
James-Christopher Miller	03/01	Denmark	Participated in PeFoR Round Table on Indigenous Peoples.
Bruce Leighty	11/00	Gabon	Field Office oversight and preparation for closeout.
	03/01	Indonesia	Field Office oversight and preparation for closeout.
Jonnell Allen	04/00	Peru	Visited Machiguena Community, site of the HCI water project, for Health Incentives Analytical topic research.
	05/00	Guatemala	Visited Quechi community for Health Incentives Analytical topic research.
	6/00	Missoula, MT	Attended the Society for Conservation Biology meeting.
Janice Davis	6/00	Nicaragua	Participated in Ecotourism Workshop.
	7/00	Mexico	Participated in TNC Financial Strategic Planning Workshop.
	09/00	Honduras	Attended final strategic planning workshop with staff and board members of Fundación VIDA.
	10/00	Peru	Attended 2 nd annual assembly of Network of Environmental Funds in Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC).

BSP Staff Member	Date	Place Visited	Purpose
Richard Margoluis	05/00	Guatemala	Worked with case study partners on Sustainable Agriculture Project..
	06/00	Missoula, MT	Attended the Society for Conservation Biology meeting.
	09/00	Park City, UT	Attended LDS Humanitarian Services Conference.
Harry van der Linde	06/00	Missoula, MT	Attended the Society for Conservation Biology's 14 th annual meeting
	07/00	Burkina Faso	Attended the Second Pan-African Symposium on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources.
	10/00	Jordan	Attended the second IUCN World Conservation Congress.