"Biodiversity Corridor Planning and Implementation Program"

Usumacinta Watershed for Economic Development And Environmental Sustainability

Associate Cooperative Agreement No. 523-A-00-03-00047-00

Mid-year Report: From October 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004

Reference: **Leader Cooperative Agreement No. LAG-A-00-99-00046-00**

Presented by   *To*

Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas. May 26, 2004.

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A) Introduction and overview

Program Goal.

A functional Usumacinta watershed management plan is designed and promoted through enhanced local capacity for watershed monitoring, reductions in the incidence and impact of fires and land invasions, and community-led demonstrations that tourism and use of non-timber forest products can be economically viable and ecologically sound.

Activities that are going to be accomplished during the first year

The activities that are projected to achieve during the first year of work are the following:

Objective 1 (IR1): A Collaborative Watershed Management Plan is Developed[1]

During this first year the activities under this objective are focused to gather all the information needed to build a baseline for the basin, including the construction of a database (geographical and statistical) that could play the role as a first platform to exchange information and to evaluate the current situation of the basin. The preliminary design of a management plan, based on different cases around the world of existing shared basins, will allow us to have a goal figure of the general structure of the proposed plan for the Usumacinta Basin. At the end of this first year we planned to study and assess different options for innovative systems to incentive water conservation, in order to develop the right plan in the following years, and then finally induce its implementation and this plan will start to be considered by the governments and it is expected to activate a bilateral cooperation to this program

Potential partners: Consejo de Cuenca Grijalva Usumacinta, Pronatura Chiapas, The Nature Conservancy – México, Comisión Nacional del Agua, Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas (CILA, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores), ECOSUR-El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, UNICACH-Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapas, UNACH- Universidad Autónoma de Chiapas (Escuela de Ingeniería), CONANP-Comisión Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas (Región Sureste)[2]. FIRCO, IHNE- Instituto de Historia Natural y Ecología de Chiapas, Secretaría de Planeación del Gobierno del Estado de Chiapas, Comisión de Cooperación con Centroamérica (SRE), CONAFOR-Comisión Nacional Forestal. SDR-Secretaría de Desarrollo Rural del Gobierno de Chiapas. Gobiernos municipales dentro de la Cuenca del Usumacinta, CI-Conservación Internacional.

Objective 2 (IR1): Expansion of the Agricultural Frontier into Protected Areas is Slowed

After carrying out an assessment of the current status of the invasions to the protected areas in Mexico and Guatemala, it is necessary to

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[1] The objectives corresponds to the 5 year program.
[2] CONANP include the Montes Azules Biosphere Reserve staff.

review the current situation of the negotiations mainly with the special commission leaded by the SRA. Indeed we already started a collaboration with this agency which is in charge of implementing a plan of the federal government in order to solve the conflicts with solid solutions. We are planning to organize a training advanced course about conflict resolution to the staff of the SRA, PROFEPA and CONANP, in order to enhance their capacities to carry out the ongoing negotiations with the irregular settlements. Considering that new invasions are threatening some of the PAs in part of Guatemala, we intend to start designing a collaborative mechanism on detection and exchange of information between both countries. Finally, and in addition to the alternatives already used by the Mexican government to solve and prevent more invasions, CI and partners will organize a round table with the agencies to design other instruments of solutions with this purpose.

Potential Partners: PROFEPA (Procuraduría de Protección al Ambiente-Delegación Chiapas), CONANP-Comisión Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas (Región Sureste), SRA, Secretaría de la Reforma Agraria-Representación Especial & Procuraduría Agraria, SAGARPA- Secretaría de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca, CEMDA-Centro mexicano de Derecho Ambiental, Naturalia, A.C. -Programa ParksWatch, GEA-Grupo de Estudios Ambientales, Organizaciones civiles de derechos humanos, Comisión Estatal y Nacional de Derechos Humanos, CI-Conservación Internacional.

Objective 3 (IR2): Incidence and Impact of Forest Fires is Reduced

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Considering the relative low cost of the diffusion of existing radio messages about good practices to prevent forest fires[3], we will re-active radio mechanisms with partners in order to disseminate such messages in the next dry season. Although, the major activity will be the evaluation of the performance of using "frijol abono" *Mucuna pruriens* legume seeds as an alternative to avoid using fire in the agricultural practices in the region. We will revise the different projects implemented with this alternative, including the projects carried out by CARE in the MAYAREMA project in Peten, Guatemala. We will assess with our partners and with the collaboration of the federal government agencies the current adoption of this alternative in comparison with the past efforts in introducing this practices in the region. Additionally, we plan to conduct a work meeting with these stakeholders in order to design innovative alternatives to prevent forest fires that could be considered as options in the following years. With this activity, we try to diversify the strategy to prevent the forest fires.

Potential Partners: PRONATURA-Chiapas, IHNyE, Comité Estatal Incendios, CONAFOR, SEMARNAT, CONANP, SAGARPA, ECOSUR, FMCN, IMAC, SECH, Comunidades estratégicas, NASA, CNPI, Sistema Chiapaneco de Radio y TV, CI-Conservación Internacional.

Objective 4 (IR3): Communities and Partner NGOs Develop Economically Viable Responsible Tourism Projects

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The tourism business in the basin is an increasing economical activity that is moving population from the basic production level (agriculture) to services. The pressure to change forest into agriculture or pasture areas is diminished by this activity. On one hand, the long term performance of the communities based enterprises focused on tourism is essential to build capacities towards financial success and sustainability; these objectives are part of CI's Ecotourism Program at the different Hotspots; in the other hand, is crucial to start introducing good practices to protect the environment and avoid negative impacts that tourism practices are having. In the first year, the assessment of

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[3] CI developed these messages and other materials in precedent years with the support of the PPIRA and the FMCN.

the performance of the community-based enterprises (CBE) focused on tourism will be performed through out several activities of evaluation.

Potential Partners: PRONATURA-Chiapas, Comisión Interinstitucional para el Desarrollo del Turismo en Chiapas, Secretaría de Turismo, Asociación Cultural Na Bolom, A.C., AMACUP, A.C. (Asociación Mexicana de Arte y Culturas Populares), Secretaría de Desarrollo Social de Chiapas, CONADEPI-Comisión Nacional para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indios, Presidencia de la República, Cooperativas y grupos organizados de la rama turística en las subcomunidades de la Comunidad Lacandona e Ixcán, Rain Forest Alliance. MEA-Mesoamerican Ecotourism Alliance, CI-Conservación Internacional.

Objective 5 (IR2): Communities Implement Sustainable Natural Resource Management Projects

For Pita and Xate non-timber forest resources, the first step will include gathering of updated information (qualitative and quantitative) on the harvesting processes, methods, areas of harvesting or cultivation in the region, and a diagnostic on the CBEs focused on these resources. We also will be compiling data regarding the current market and commercial issues. Considering that the xate and the pita harvesting starts in the region in very different times, the activities are not the same. In this component we will be working with an important number of women considering that the xate plantations are protected and harvested also by women.

Potential Partners: Organizaciones comunitarias de la Comunidad Lacandona y Marqués de Comillas (SSS Follajes Lacandones, SSS Ixtle del Marqués, etc) (**Annex 2**), PRONATURA-Chiapas, CONABIO (Proyecto de Recursos Biológicos Colectivos), Etnobiología para la Conservación, A.C., ECOSUR-El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, CONAFOR-Comisión Nacional Forestal., Methodus Consultora (Oaxaca), Texas A&M University. , Comisión de Cooperación Ambiental (CCA)., Rainforest Alliance, Instituto de Ecología UNAM (Michoacán), INIFAP-Veracruz (Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales y Agropecuarias), Subsecretaría Forestal (SDR-Chiapas), CI-Conservación Internacional.

Objective 6 (IR3): Local NGOs Develop Capacity for Watershed Monitoring

The activities considered under this objective for the first year will allow designing technical protocols to monitor the watershed. We will also be assessing the installed capabilities for monitoring among the governmental agencies, NGOs and local universities to perform the monitoring of the basin. We will also contribute to the realization of a first course on the management of metadata (shared databases). In this sense The Natural History Institute of Chiapas is already developing techniques and standards for watersheds monitoring. We will take this into account and we expect a relevant involvement of this agency in this component.

At least for the first year of work we do not envision an active participation of the local communities in monitoring activities considering that this first year will be focused to develop standards and procedures.

Potential Partners: Pronatura-Chiapas, ECOSUR, CONANP, Miembros del Consejo de Cuenca Grijalva/Usumacinta, NASA, Comisión Nacional del Agua (CNA), CI-Conservación Internacional.

In general terms, the activities listed above comprise logical first steps to gather and analyze data and information, which is crucial to develop the proposed program. A database of the Usumacinta Basin is essential to follow up the impact of this program during the next following five years. For this first year of work, the efforts focused on the management of the basin and its watersheds will be officially presented to the bilateral[4] governmental platforms related with the cooperation between the two countries, as well as, in the Mexican major forum for the Usumacinta Basin. Every effort for capacity building will be based on accurate and updated information, so the courses and training activities are assertive and coherent with the real needs of the community based organizations involved in the program.

Key Partner:
The partnership with PRONATURA-Chiapas for this program is key for the accomplishment of the proposed objectives, considering the strengths and skills of this Mexican NGO in the following themes and topics: Sustainable Forestry, Capacity Building for indigenous and *campesino* groups and organizations, certification processes (in conjunction with the Rainforest Alliance) and support to community based enterprises through the fund specifically established for such purpose.

B) First mid-year accomplishments

1) General activities.

During the first months, CI held several work meetings with USAID Mexico and its partners in order to prepare the Annual Work Plans. The most important meetings were the following:

Workplans preparation meetings:
- **October 13, 2003**: Work meeting at Pronatura Chiapas, A.C. San Cristobal de las Casas.
- **October 14, 2003**: Work meeting at CI with PROFEPA-Chiapas.
- **October 16 and 17, 2003**: Work meeting at Pronatura Chiapas and Na Bolom, A.C. San Cristobal de las Casas
- **October 27 – 31, 2003**: Field visit to the upper and lower Usumacinta Basin. US AID (Mex-Guat)-CI-PRONATURA-SECTUR-Defensores de Naturaleza-CONANP, Community organizations and authorities and other partners (UNACH, ECOSUR, etc.) (**Annex 73**).
- **November 4-7, 2003**: Internal work meetings on the workplans.
- **November 10, 2003**: Work meeting at Na Bolom and Pronatura in San Cristobal de las Casas to agree in the final workplans presented to the US AID.
- **November 17, 2003**: Elaboration of the workplan final version (**Annex 74**).
- **December 2, 2003**: Internal work meeting of the CI Selva Maya Program on the Usumacinta Program.
- **December 9–13, 2003**: Meeting with US AID in Mexico City about LWA and AID Strategy. Ixtapan de la Sal, Mexico.
- **January 14, 2004**: Work meeting with PRONATURA-Chiapas in order to refine responsibilities and leaderships.
- **March 26, 2004**: Work meeting with US AID Mexico, Pronatura-Chiapas to review workplans and brief status of the projects.
- **April 2, 2004**: Work meeting with Pronatura in San Cristobal de las Casas to define workplans, responsible of every component got together.

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[4] Guatemala-Mexico

In this period also, the general profile of this program for the Usumacinta Basin, as a Sustainable development and conservation program financially supported by the USAID, was formally presented to governmental agencies, local NGO's and other stakeholders in the following meetings.

Presentation of the Usumacinta Program to regional stakeholders:
- **November 6, 2003**: Presentation of the Program at the 7th Mesoamerican Congress for Biological Conservation in Tuxtla Gutierrez.
- **November 14, 2003**: Presentation of the Program at the 1st. International Congress on Water in the Frontier Mexico-Guatemala-Belize held in Tuxtla Gutierrez (**Annex 68**).
- **December 18, 2003**: Presentation of the Program to the Environmental Sector (governmental agencies and NGOs) at the offices of the SEMARNAT in Chiapas; the organizations and agencies included were: Comisión Nacional del Agua, Instituto de Historia Natural y Ecología, UNICACH, UNACH, SEMARNAT- Delegación Chiapas and PROFEPA.
- **March 12, 2004**: Presentation of the program at the USA Embassy at Mexico City (Jolyne Sanjak, Policy Advisor USAID Washington, and David D. Bathrick, Rural Growth Strategist).

C) Work Plan Update and status

In this section we are reporting the major milestones and achievements accomplished in the period. We are using the Workplan structure in order to clearly show the progress in each of the activities.

Objective 1: A Collaborative Watershed Management Plan is developed.

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 1.1 Configure a database for assessing and monitor the Usumacinta basin at a bi-national level.	**1)** Assess available information and update hydrological and geographical information on the Usumacinta basin.	1, 2	Inventory of geographical databases, hydrological records, metadata, etc.	**OT**	None	• **March 4, 2004**: Integration of a master list of references on papers and reports directly related with the Usumacinta Basin (**Annex 2a**). • An annotated inventory of the data and information gathered to perform the database is included in the annexes section of this report (**Annex 2b**). • Right now we are applying quality control tests and correcting data and information; together with PRONATURA we will be reviewing the databases and coverage that will be generated during the next quarter.

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
	2) Update the Usumacinta Geographical Database, including integrating the data for Guatemala.	1, 2	Updated Geographical Database of the Usumacinta Basin.	OT		• San Quintin Valley in the Lacandon region (CI-PRONATURA-ECOSUR) for land use ground verification (**Annex 8**). • The information gathered from the Guatemalan section of the basin is already selected and reviewed; quality control factors are being applied. • We already identified gaps on the hydrological and climatic data, and now we are searching for information in order to fill these gaps.
Activity 1.2 Establish a base line for the Usumacinta Watershed	**1)** Design a GIS method to assess the current conditions of the micro-watersheds within the basin.	2	Technical protocol.	R	First it was needed to redefine the methodology process for the Plan and according to the results, we will make a workshop with Pronatura to define the content, structure and analysis methodology of the base line.	• A preliminary proposal of the GIS database structure was designed. The main basic themes were defined, and the micro-watershed was defined as the spatial unit to be used for the analysis of the database. • From the legal point of view, a compilation and revision of the major bi-national agreements and international treaties with incidence on the Basin have been accomplished (**Annex 1**). • Preliminarily, we defined a graphic system in order to establish an analytical platform for each watershed of the basin.

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
	2) Preliminarily assess the forest cover and land use, population distribution, updated threats and opportunities for conservation within the Usumacinta Basin.	3	Technical report, cartographic series.	OT		• **November 26, 2003**: Technical work meeting CI-PRONATURA- ECOSUR for the joint classification of satellite images (LANDSAT 1198,2000 and 2003) and planning of the ground trudging sites for verification in the field. • In order to identify opportunities and stakeholders, we review the current cooperation program between Guatemala and Mexico (**Annex 3**). • Regarding the threats, we identified the potential impacts and alternatives of the Boca del Cerro projected dam (**Annex 4**)
	3) Update the forest & land use cover within the basin using 2003 LANDSAT Images.	1, 2, 3	Classified 2003 satellite images. Technical report and vegetation and land use map.	OT		• The first step of the LANDSAT and SPOT satellite images processing has been accomplished (rectification, preliminary mosaic assemblage and quality controls application) (**Annex 20**). The next step will include an additional field trip and a over-flight verification, in order to carry out the supervised classification of the images.
	4) Assess biodiversity distribution based on the records of the CONABIO database (only the Mexican part).	2	Technical report. Biodiversity database for the Usumacinta Basin.	OT	•	• CI already acquired the geo-referenced records available at CONABIO of all the species considered in the red list of Mexico (NOM-059). This database will be used to identify the distribution of biodiversity richness within the basin. In the following months, it is considered to acquire information from Guatemalan agencies.

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 1.3 Preliminary design of a Watershed Management Plan	**1)** Identify potential stakeholders directly involved in developing a Management Plan.	1	Annotated directory of stakeholders classified by type or role	**D**	Reviewing Management Plans and other experiences we found it was necessary to redefine the steps to carry out the Plan, and then we could identify potential stakeholders and other necessities to make the Plan	• From reviewing some management plans for other basins, we started to determine by theme the potential stakeholders to be involved (**Annex 11**).
	2) Compile and revise watershed management plans as case studies.	1, 2	Annotated list of papers and published works on watershed management and monitoring. Physical and digital libraries.	**OT**		• Different watershed management plans had been revised, as well as, an important amount of published papers on Watershed Management (**Annex 150 to 177**). • We reviewed the Hydraulic National and Regional Programs in order to support the design of a Management Plan (**Annex 319 to 338**).

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
	3) Design a preliminary management plan through a work meeting with the key partners.	3	Preliminary management plan designed.	R		• **August 21-23, 2003**: Participation in the workshop on Watershed Integral Management at San Cristobal de las Casas (**Annex 7, 9, 12, 14-19, 21**). • We reviewed the agendas of each of the meetings of the Usumacinta Basin Council in order to identify former activities of the council that could be part of a preliminary management plan (**Annex 5**). • As a next step we will be developing a workshop with key stakeholders in order to review a preliminary design of the management plan for the Usumacinta.
Activity 1.4 Design a preliminary monitoring system for the Usumacinta Watershed	**1)** Organize and develop a technical Workshop.	3	Preliminary monitoring system designed.	R	It was important to review and obtain information about monitoring programs, systems of other and different watersheds, so we can get in contact with key stakeholders to develop the necessary workshops and the preliminary Monitoring system	• Considering the fragile status of the Mesoamerican River Turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*) which distributional range is mostly the Usumacinta basin, this species has been identified as an indicator of environmental protection of freshwater species within the basin; based on this, CI already is working in a project in order to implement a recovery action plan that includes a monitoring module of the turtle populations (**Annex 339-340**).

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
	2) Develop technical thematic protocols to monitor a variety of key parameters.	3, 4	Technical thematic Protocols	OT		• A series of technical papers were compiled from a variety of sources to have a start point in the development of technical protocols for monitoring key variables within the basin. We will be waiting for the results of the study supported by the NEEM initiative on monitoring systems and indicators (**Annex 101-135, 188-197**). • Next step will be the review of preliminary protocols with key stakeholders.
Activity 1.5 Introduce the initiative to governmental agencies, water users councils and bi-lateral entities.	**1)** Technical work meeting with the members of the Usumacinta / Grijalva Watershed Council.	4	-Memory of the work meeting. -Formal documents of where the initiative is recognized: Usumacinta Basin Council meeting (December 2, 2003) attached.	OT	None	• In **December 2, 2003**, the initiative was formally submitted to the Grijalva-Usumacinta Basins Council, which officially expressed the endorsement to the program and commitment to support the development of the bi-national plan. (**Annex 6**). • **February 18, 2004**: In order to learn from the Guatemalan efforts to manage the basin, we reviewed a number of documents from the Fundacion Kukulcan of Guatemala on the Usumacinta Alliance, as well as, from other sources (**Annex 82-86, 271-273**). • We understand that Defensores de la Naturaleza in Guatemala is assembling a full proposal to USAID focused on the Usumacinta Basin; we are already looking for a cooperative interaction with this NGO in order to have a complementary work rather than an overlap. Probably a natural step could be a bi-national meeting, with the active participation of governmental agencies, to review both programs and start cooperation.

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
	2) Formally present the initiative within the bi-national meeting of Guatemala and Mexico and CCAD.	4	Memory of the work meeting. Formal documents of where the initiative is recognized.	OT		• As soon as we advance with the cooperation scheme with Defensores de la Naturaleza and other organizations, we plan to present a preliminary protocol for the bi-national initiative to both governments, probably during the next bi-national meeting. • Another future step is to present the initiative formally to the SEMARNAT and the CCAD in order to get their involvement in the early stages of the program.
	3) Present the initiative through a protocol and other tools to the NGOs, universities and federal and estate agencies with activities on conservation and development in the lower basin.	4	Technical paper and web page.			•
	4) Identify pilot micro-basins as potential site of monitoring protocols testing in the second year (these micro-basins will be potential sites to propose testing operative instruments as FIRCO does).	4	Technical paper and maps.			•

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 1.6 Design and establish a system to exchange information on the basin.	**1)** Design the information exchange system (e.g. e-room, information nodes, etc).	3, 4	Report with the system designed.	R	Together with Pronatura we will define a critical route and with the technological resources assessment we will be able to define necessities of information, equipment, etc.	• **December 3-5, 2003**: Participation in the Course-Workshop "Environmental Information: Standards and Metadata", in San Cristobal de las Casas, taught by the Geomatics Department of the SEMARNAT (**Annex 10, 53**). • Together with Pronatura, we defined a workplan regarding the exchange of information and to perform an assessment of the technological capacities in CI and PRONATURA all this to define technical roles of information management (**Annex 56**).
	2) Elaborate a normative framework to exchange and use metadata and technical information on the basin.	3, 4	Document with the normative framework.	OT		• A normative framework draft is already elaborated. This will be the start point of a formal agreement for the users (**Annex 54, 56**).
Activity 1.7 Compile and review innovative systems and economical instruments for water conservation in Mexico and other countries.	**1)** Search technical information in Internet, Universities, water agencies, Comite Pigua, etc.	1, 2, 3	Annotated list of papers and published works on the theme. Physical and digital libraries.	OT	None	• Participation in the special course "Rehabilitation of micro-Watersheds" where FIRCO presented the methods to be used through the Watersheds National Program. • An important work on instruments for water conservation published by PRONATURA was obtained and is in revision (**Annex 12,21**). • Important information on the Comite Pigua and the Zanatenco Watershed Committee was revised (**Annex 63-65**).

Objective 2: Expansion of the Agricultural Frontier into Protected Areas is Slowed.

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 2.1: Carry out an updated assessment of the status regarding the invasions and irregular settlements and deforestation within the Protected Areas (PA) in the Usumacinta Watershed (Including Guatemala), and evaluate the major factors that influence such processes.	**1)** Elaborate individual cards on the background, current status and conditions of the negotiations for each irregular settlement.	2	Status cards with basic information on each site.	**OT**	None	• CI supports the Special Representation in Chiapas of the SRA to gather all the information on each irregular settlement within the protected areas. We have been providing aerial photographs, basic information and GIS data, which has been used by the SRA to design a strategy of work in order to solve the irregular settlements conflicts within the protected areas (**Annex 314**). ▪ **February 13, 2004**: Participation in a meeting organized by the National Commission of Protected Areas of Mexico at Mexico City to develop a strategy on the invasions to Montes Azules (Ciudad Universitaria) (**Annex 24**).

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 2.2: Revise the negotiations and conflict resolution processes implemented by the Mexican Government, and development of an objective financial plan to funding the potential resolution activities.	**1)** Work meeting with the agrarian authorities and the CONANP and PROFEPA in order to develop a financial plan for resolution activities	3	Financial plan for resolution activities. Acknowledgement to the formal leader of SEMARNAT-CONANP in order to invest in restoration and watching Natural Areas.			Several work meetings with the Agrarian Issues Mexican Secretariat (SRA) have taken place during this period in order to contribute to the solution of conflicts caused by irregular settlements: ▪ **November 12, 2003**: Work meeting with Special Representative of the SRA in Chiapas, Lic. Martha Cecilia Díaz Gordillo, regarding cooperation between CI and the Government of Mexico regarding the solution to illegal settlements in the Protected Areas of the Lacandon region (**Annex 23**). ▪ **November 26., 2003**: Over-flight with the Special Representative of the SRA in Chiapas, Lic. Martha Cecilia Diaz Gordillo, over the Montes Azules Biosphere Reserve and field visit to San Francisco Caracol community to supervise the progress about the agreements of relocation with the communities. ▪ **December 5, 2003**, Meeting to follow up different issues regarding this topic. Elaboration of a manuscript that was sent to the members of the National Council of Protected Areas of Mexico regarding the concerning of a lack of a strategy to recover the areas after the relocation of settlements within the Reserve (**Annex 22**). ▪ **January 26, 2004**: Work meeting at the SRA offices in Tuxtla. ▪ **February 23, 2004**: Work meeting at the SRA offices in Tuxtla.

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 2.3: Provide capacity building in conflict resolution techniques and technological tools (Polimap) to CONANP and PROFEPA staff in the region, and other stakeholders	**1)** Training course on environmental conflict resolution	3	Course Report. Trained staff			As a next step, we will have to develop the contents of a training course and workshop on conflict resolution together with the SRA and the CONANP, and define the details of the course-workshop.
Activity 2.4 Design of an efficient mechanism for the detection and information exchange regarding invasions and land use changes to the PA of Mexico and Guatemala, including financial systems to sustain patrolling activities.	**1)** Facilitate of a work meeting among the protected areas commission staff from Mexico (Region X) and Guatemala (Sierra del Lacandon NP).	3	Report on the work meeting and agreements			In an over-flight carried out in April, new invasions in the Sierra del Lacandon were sighted. Soon we will be contacting the responsible staff at CONAP-Guatemala and SLNP in order to define how to exchange information on invasions to PAs.

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 2.5: Preliminary design of additional joint alternatives to prevent the invasions and the land use changes within the PA (improvement of traditional crops, etc).[5]	**1)** Same work meeting than 2.4	3	Report with list of additional alternatives.			
Activity 2.6 Plan a clear strategy for public dissemination of the current status regarding the irregular settlements in the PA[6]	**1)** Fill informative needs before others do.	3	Document with a general strategy			

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[5] It is expected that the NEEM initiative could generate some guidelines on this issue.
[6] This activity is in order to fill the public information spaces with objective data before political groups that seek other intentions use them.

Objective 3: Incidence and Impact of Forest Fires is Reduced

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 3.1: Re-activate the prevention of forest fires campaign (radio messages)	**1)** Assess the impact of the previous forest fires campaign	1, 2	Evaluation report	D	This activity will be carry out jointly with Pronatura as soon as the sub-agreement is signed.	We will review the results of the several assessments done on the PPIRA[7]
	2) Broadcasting radio messages	2, 3	Number of messages launched to the public.	OT		The production of the radiophone spots was accomplished (scripts, recorded, translation; Annex 25, 28-32) and they are ready to broadcast.
	3) Maintain the forest fires detection techniques using the hot spots system of CONABIO	2, 3	Report of forest fires during the next dry season	D		

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[7] PPIRA, Programa de Prevención de Incendios y Restauración Ambiental (Supported by USAID through the Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza(FMCN)..

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 3.2: Rapid assessment of permanency and effectiveness of the different alternatives of forest fire prevention including the use of frijol abono, the prescribed burning etc.	**1)** Evaluate the use of frijol abono in selected communities within the Usumacinta Basin	2, 3	Evaluation report	**D**	The report is not yet done	We received a formal proposal from a researcher of ECOSUR (**Annex 26**). After the assessment, we will be deciding the profile needed for this study.

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 3.3: Design of a fire management plan to promote additional alternatives in order to prevent forest fires, including a forest fires prevention practices combined according to the landscape units, a reimbursement system to have opportune funding to cover combat expenses.	**1)** Work meeting with major stakeholders and agencies directly working for forest fires prevention (e.g. incentives for agroforestry systems)	3, 4	Fire Management Communication Strategy regarding feasible alternatives with specific actions for the Lacandon Region.	D	This activity will be lead by Pronatura and it will start when the sub-agreement is signed.	

Objective 4: Communities and Partner NGOs Develop Economically Viable Responsible Tourism Projects

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
A) Assessment of performance and of organizational strength of the CBEs to manage viable responsible tourism business (Capacity Building to Conservation enterprises based on responsible tourism productive activities).						
Activity 4.1. Assess and evaluate of the current status of the CBEs regarding the environmental impacts (positive and negative), organizational structure, legal and fiscal, finance performance and quality of services.	**1)** Design of a capacity assessment survey to systematically gather and update detailed information on every CBE that potentially could be inserted in the responsible tourism network (comprises direct and indirect related business)	1	Survey designed	F		The survey was designed to obtain information in the following aspects: General data of the business or CBE, Most important products that offer the different sectors that constitute the enterprise, legal structure of the enterprises, environmental practices (e.g. management of residues and prevision of environmental impacts (**Annex 39**).
	2) Realize 2 field trips to introduce and apply the survey and complete verify the information in a participatory process on the ground	2	Field trips reports. Completed Surveys	OT		One field trip completed: The survey was presented to all the CBEs of the lacandona community and agreed to carry out the evaluation to 5 enterprises of Nueva Palestinina, 13 enterprises of Lacanja Chansayab and 6 enterprises of Frontera Corozal (**Annex 47**).
	3) Analysis of compiled Information and preliminary performance assessment of each CBE	2	Technical report	D		We are still carrying out the implementation of the survey, and we have the commitment of the CBEs to get the completed surveys in the next field trip.

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 4.2. Participative development of strategic plans to strengthen the organization of each CBE	**1)** Workshop and work meetings with the CBEs for a self-evaluation based on and presentation of the surveys results	3	Workshop report	**OT / R**	Technical field staff is working with each CBE in order to obtain organizational information. A workshop will take place to present the survey results	This workshop will be carried out to finalize the analysis of the information of the CBEs during the 3-4 quarter
	2) Elaborate a strategic plan with each CBE to address needs to strengthen their businesses	3	Individual Strategic Business plans	**OT**		With the information from the survey, We will start the elaboration of a strategic plan for each CBE. We already planned the active participation of high-level students of the ITESM[8] to help the CBEs in developing the business plans.

B) Strategic training in business management to improve the financial performance of the CBEs and first steps towards a network

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[8] ITESM, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey.

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 4.3: Identify training needs (themes and levels of training) regarding business management for each CBE.	**1)** Analysis of the survey results regarding the financial performance and business management capacities of each CBEs	2	Technical report	OT	None	A joint assessment of the preliminary information from the surveys was carried out with participation of the SECTUR staff, as well as, with experts from CI Washington (Conservation Enterprises Department). Together we decided to design basic training courses and also a course on Business Plan Development to fill the gaps found in the survey (**Annex 33-37, 40-46**). Some of the work meetings held were the following: • **January 8, 2004**: Work meeting with the Secretary of Tourism in Chiapas. • **February 10, 2004**: Work meeting with the Secretary of Tourism in Chiapas. • **February 18, 2004** Work meeting with the Secretary of Tourism in Chiapas. • **February 19-20, 2004**: Work meeting with Edward Millard of the Conservation Enterprises Department of CI Washington D.C.
Activity 4.4: Training of key members of the CBEs in business management	**1)** Carry out 2 basic formal courses to managers and other key members of each CBE	3,4	Courses at the Moxviquil Trainning Center Report of courses given. Trained members of the CBEs	OT	None	• A program and agenda for this course have been defined; the key members of the CBEs were selected in order to train them in June and July 2004 (**Annex 35, 37**).

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 4.5 Participative collective identification of advantages and opportunities to formalize a responsible tourism network in order to increase impact of commercialization and develop common approaches to product development.	**1)** Work meeting with the directive heads of the CBEs to identify and agree collaborative links to launch the network, and define its purpose and agree how it will operate.	3	Meeting Report	**OT**	None	The meeting will be carried out on July 2004.
C) Capacity building to develop high quality ecotourism products and services						
Activity 4.6 Identify strategic training needs in development of high quality tourism products and services	**1)** Application of surveys with visitors, tourists and tour operators and agencies in order to identify the quality perception, product attractiveness, demands and needs to improve the services	2	Surveys completed.	**D**	CI-Pronatura are signing the agreement	This activity is proposed to be developed by Pronatura. One work meeting CI-PRONATURA was carried out at the Moxviquil training Center.
	2) Analysis of the information from the surveys on quality	2	Technical report	**D**		To be developed by Pronatura

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 4.7 Assess the impact of courses already given.	**3)** Compile and revise courses given in the recent past and comparison with the estimated performance and applying an evaluation test to members of each CBE	2	Annotated list of courses given in the region. Report on the results of the evaluation.	**OT**	None	To be developed by Pronatura.
Activity 4.8: Capacity building work meetings and training courses[9] on strategic topics for product and services development and improvement.	**1)** Design of the thematic training courses considered as priorities to improve the quality of the products and services	3	Courses contents and programs	**OT**	None	In coordination, SECTUR and CI, designed an integral program of basic training for Tourism Services to be taught to the CBEs of the Lacandon Community The courses were planed to occur in two phases: Five basic courses on phase 1 and two courses on administrative operations and business plan development in phase 2.
	2) Implementation of the first 3 identified courses based on the results	3,4	Report on the training courses given	**OT**		The planned basic courses are the following: Basic operation of a Tourism Enterprise, Environmental Good Practices, Hygiene, Receptionist, First aids, Foods and beverages (this courses will be held in the last week of May 2004). Phase 2: Business plan, Principles of tourist certification and Environmental Good Practices (June 2004)

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[9] Every course and training will consider a limited number of persons, although the principle of equal opportunity to women and men will be maintained. It is planned to get a multiplier effect.

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 4.9: Support project to handcrafts development for women groups: 1st. year Lacandon Women.	**1)** Diagnostic of existing production: quality, design, presentation	1,2	Assessment report	D	We are in the processes of signing an agreement with Na Bolom to accomplish our fiscal and legal requirements	To be developed by Na Bolom (**Annex 38**).
	2) Diagnostic of capacity of groups (management, bookkeeping, costing)	2	Assessment report	D	To be developed by Na Bolom	
	3) Initial workshops with artisans artisans to develop group dynamic, agree roles, ensure that they take responsibility	2,3	Group structures with nominated officials	D	To be developed by Na Bolom	
	4) Follow-up production visits	3		D	To be developed by Na Bolom	
	5) Product design, packaging and production workshops	3,4	Handcrafts Production	D	To be developed by Na Bolom	
	6) Product promotion to identified markets	4	Sales reports	D	To be developed by Na Bolom	

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 4.10: Identify alternatives for new products and services development (Handcrafts, textiles, guides, etc).	**1)** According to the information on visitors demands and needs from the applied surveys, begin market information service to CBEs to enable them to develop new products and services	4	Technical report	**D**	We are signing the agreements with sub grantees	• To be developed by Na Bolom • CI has a catalog of some handcrafts products from the Lacandon and Tzeltal communities that could be used as a starting point.
Activity 4.11: Assess marketing and commercialization activities for every product and service currently offered by the CBEs	**1)** Analysis of the information gathered in the field visits, surveys and courses evaluations of the marketing and commercialization ongoing activities for each CBE	3	Technical report	**OT**	None	• A survey within the major tour operators in Chiapas will be developed and applied to identify the local marketing effort.

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 4.12: Participatory design of an strategic plan to improve the marketing and commercialization of each product and service as well as of the responsible tourism network.	**1)** Determination of strategic opportunities to improve the marketing and commercialization of the products and services offered by each CBE, including image development of the network .	3,4	Technical report. Image brief manual for the Network	**OT**	None	
Activity 4.13: Identify alternatives and options to build win-win alliances with private operator and agencies	**1)** Visit to private sector tourism operators with current activities in the region	3,4	Annotated list	**OT**	None	
	2) Analysis of the actual relationships between CBEs and private sector in order to identify advantages and opportunities for the CBEs	3	Technical report	**OT**		

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 4.14: Design and disseminate a code of best practices in tourism among the CBEs and other stakeholders within the Usumacinta watershed.	**1)** Gathering existing best practices in tourism activities in order to produce a preliminary code to be distributed among the stakeholders	1	Best practices in tourism code completed and distributed.	D	The code of best practices in tourism will be distributed during training courses	• A set of *"Best Practices in Tourism"* has been compiled from several sources. After reviewing it, we will develop an illustrated version to be presented to the CBEs in June and July of 2004 (**Annex 364**)
Activity 4.15: Preliminary assessment of every CBEs of the potential network applying the best practices code as a evaluation framework.	**1)** Field visit to apply a survey in each CBE in order to assess current best practices	2	Surveys completed	D		• To be developed by Pronatura
	2) Analysis of the survey for the establishment of a base line for each CBEs of the network in terms of best practices	3	Technical report	OT		• CI and PRONATURA field staff will work with each CBE in order to obtain and integrated information • The technical report will be develop by Pronatura

Activities	Sub activities	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 4.16: Identify and revise tourism certification models existing in this and other regions.	**1)** Realize a comparative analysis of advantages and disadvantages of each certification model	2,3	Technical report	**OT**	None	• To be develop in the fourth quarter. The technical report will be developed by Pronatura • In order to get as much information as possible on certification processes, different documents were obtained by CI that will be a base to develop a certification process in this region (**Annex 371-375**)

Objective 5: Communities Implement Sustainable Natural Resource Management Projects

Activities	Sub activity	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments

Activities	Sub activity	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 5.1: Establish a base line on the current harvesting of xate in selected areas of the Usumacinta watershed.	**1)** Compilation of updated information (local knowledge, literature review, studies undertaken) on the xate harvesting, ecology and commercialization	2,3	Technical report	OT	None	Field visit to current harvesting areas at the region took place. 18 plantations sited. • **January 19-23, 2004**: Field trip to Palenque and Frontera Corozal. Meeting with Rene Ochoa of the Texas A &M University, and with the Rain Forest Alliance and the Fundación Naturaleza para la Vida on the xate projects at Guatemala. Meeting with the Follajes Lacandones Cooperative at Frontera Corozal (**Annex 51**) . **February 12, 2004**: Revision of the major papers and works on xate palms and pita (**Annex 48, 274-296,**). The intern rules of the SmartWood program at the Mayan region for the assessment of Forest Management were revised; this can be consulted at: http://www.smartwood.org/new/sw-guatemala.pdf
	2) General updating of the status of the areas under harvesting	3	Technical report	OT		We already start gathering information in the field on the xate plantations and harvesting areas.
	3) Assess the effects and impacts of the different systems and intensities of harvesting in selected sites	3,4	Technical report			

Activities	Sub activity	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 5.2: Assess the performance, status and cost/benefit analysis of installed plantations and community based enterprises	**1)** Evaluation of selected parcels dedicated to the cultivation and production of palms, in order to determine their yield rates and productivity	3,4	Report on the evaluation of productivity and management recommendations			
Activity 5.3 Evaluate the benefits accruing in the value chain of the local collection and distribution system.	**1)** Assessment of the organizational aspects and legal issues of the community based enterprises and cooperatives harvesting xate	1,2	Technical report on organizational constrains. Workshop report	**OT**	None	• We are still gathering this information directly in the field, although we have some results on the Follajes Lacandones Cooperative.
	2) Evaluation of the commercial chain and marketing procedures that prevail in the region.	2,3	Sub sector analysis	**OT**		• Through the cooperative exchange that we establish with Rene Ochoa of the Texas A&M University, strategic information had been obtained on the commercial chain and marketing procedures (**49,50,52**).

Activities	Sub activity	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 5.4 National and international market study of xate palms identifying potential for supply chain incentives for sustainable harvesting	**1)** Updated assessment of the markets and prices	3,4	Technical report on productivity	OT	None	• Preliminary information on markets and prices for the xate palm has been compiled from different sources in Internet (**Annex 277,281**).
	2) Workshop to share information with CBEs	3,4	Workshop report			•
	3) Identify new alternatives of commercialization for the different species of palms	4	Workshop report			•
Activity 5.5 Gather and update technical information regarding the harvesting and cultivation of pita.	**1)** Mapping and evaluate the ecological conditions within the harvesting areas and plantations of pita plant	2,3	Preliminary maps of pita harvesting areas in the region. Inventory of pita plantations in the basin (only Mexico).	OT	None	• Through the use of GPS, we are developing the first maps of the xate plantations at Frontera Corozal. Based on the Federal Law of Transparency and Access to information (**Annex 301**) we will be requesting to SEMARNAT and CONAFOR information for the whole region, including the areas of xate harvesting declared as UMAs.
	2) Identify pathogenic agents which affects the pita plant in order to determine prevention and control mechanisms	2,3	Technical report	OT	• .	• Preliminary information regarding diseases had been gathered

Activities	Sub activity	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 5.6: Strategic training to improve the performance of the CBEs and cooperatives dedicated to use this non timber forest resource	**1)** Training on the different steps for processing the fibers of pita (processing of the fiber)	2,3	Course report			
Activity 5.7 Strengthening of the existing CBEs, cooperatives and producers of pita	**1)** Assess and evaluate the organizational status and structures of the community enterprises and cooperatives	4	Evaluation report			
	2) Participative design of a strategic plan in order to integrate the producers of pita to the region with the "CONPITA Initiative"	4	Strategic Plan			

Objective 6: Local NGOs Develop Capacity for Watershed Monitoring

Activities	Sub activity	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 6.1 Design of a preliminary technical protocol for the monitoring of the Usumacinta watershed, with a bi-national perspective	**1)** Technical workshop in order to define key indicators for monitoring the environmental health of the basin	3	Memory of the Workshop Preliminary Technical protocol			**This activity had been transferred as part of the activity 1.4 for Objective 1. So in the following reports the achievements regarding this issues will be reported there.**
Activity 6.1: Complete the characterization of the water bodies in the Lacandon Region.	**1)** 3 Field trips to get information from the ground and to test the Water Bodies Assessment Protocol	2,3	Field trips report	**OT**	None	The 1st trip has taken place. We are planning the second and if possible one over-flight to collect more information. All these trips are done with ECOSUR and Pronatura.
	2) Elaborate monographies for the major water bodies of the basin in Mexico	3,4	Monographies	**OT**		There is a draft protocol, including monographies structure and assessments based on satellite images analysis for 1998 and 2000. The next steps are going to integrate gap information, make the analysis of 2003 image and finally conclude the documents on the characterization of each water body (Annex 58-62).

Activities	Sub activity	Quarters	Comments, verifiers and expected products	Status of the activity Finished (F) / On Track (OT) / Delayed (D) / Cancelled (C) / Revised (R)	Brief description of stage "D", "C" or "R"	Achievements, observations on the next steps and comments
Activity 6.2 Assess the capabilities, strengths and weakness of different local institutions in order to design a monitoring system for the basin with key institutions	**1)** Develop a workshop with key stakeholders directly involved in environmental and hydrological monitoring	3	Memory of the workshop. Report on the Diagnostic of installed capacities	OT	None	We already elaborated a technical questionnaire on technological and operational capacities and we distribute it to several stakeholders (**Annex 55**).
	2) Revise existing monitoring protocols for other basins or watersheds, including the ones developed by the Comité Pigua in the Coast of Chiapas	2,3	Annotated list of the major monitoring protocol.	OT		We already gathered information on monitoring protocols (**Annex 101-135**); next quarter we will make the annotated list.
Activity 6.3 Support of the first course on metadata management at ECOSUR	**1)** Assistance and support to the training course organized by ECOSUR.	1	Memory of the training workshop, managing meta data (what has be learned).	F		CI and PRONATURA participate in organizing a workshop in November 2003 about Standards to use Metadata and to exchange technical information.

D) Environmental Compliance.

Objective 1: A Collaborative Watershed Management Plan is developed

The Plan includes a current and potential threats analysis, which allows us to establish a baseline to outline the mitigation mechanisms. This plan also can establish the reference framework to strategic planning of the region. So, the plan will provide tools and information to develop environmental impact evaluations and tools to develop strategic planning to other programs within the region.

Objective 2: Expansion of the Agricultural Frontier into Protected Areas is slowed

At the time that we develop activities under this objective we will decide (with partners) about environmental compliance.

Objective 3: Incidence and Impact of Forest Fires is Reduced

At the time that we develop activities under this objective we will decide (with partners) about environmental compliance.

Objective 4: Communities and Partner NGOs Develop Economically Viable Responsible Tourism Projects

Is not proposed to develop infrastructure of any type nevertheless, part of the objective of the project is to prevent potentials environmental impacts caused by the conventional tourism, the action that are being taken are:

- To do an analysis of the each enterprises to evaluate the environmental risks of impact (Survey).
- To incorporate the concept of environmental good practices in all the EBC's
- Courses of training incorporating elements of conservation and sustainable development
- Participation in the coordination of tourism of Chiapas to incorporate environmentally responsible politics to the decisions makers.

Objective 5: Communities Implement Sustainable Natural Resource Management Projects

At the time that we develop activities under this objective we will decide (with partners) about environmental compliance.

Objective 6: Local NGOs Develop Capacity for Watershed Monitoring

This project will provide tools and information to other organizations to develop environmental impact evaluations and strategic planning to other programs within the region and it will also allow the monitoring of impacts of the projects.

E) Gender Compliance

This program has a team composed by partners, who have an active and wise participation both men and women. All decisions made are under the whole group agreement; there is a visible commitment when the whole group makes the decision. We are on the process of planning stage. Communities have their own customs and men make most of decisions. Women only support the husbands or partners decisions, this is the way social organization works for most of the Mayan culture. We are working on trying to involve women into decision-making, and our Population and Environment Project is working on it.

Objective 1: A Collaborative Watershed Management Plan is developed

The technical group of work between CI and Pronatura for the Collaborative Watershed Management Plan includes the participation of men and women allowing different perspectives to the process. It is also contemplated to include the participation of heterogeneous groups in the workshops or consultations during the elaboration of the Plan.

Objective 4: Communities and Partner NGOs Develop Economically Viable Responsible Tourism Projects

During the activities integrated in this program, equity of opportunities will be given to women, men, young people (18 years and above), and senior citizens; so they are incorporated to take training. At the same time we are promoting women incorporation to different tourism businesses, so they will be part of the local economy and social development.

During the activities in this program, equality of opportunities will be given to women and men, they be incorporated to take the courses of training, at the same we will promote women incorporation to different businesses tourist.

F) Other donors supporting this program and links with Governmental Agencies.

This program does not receive funding from any other financial source. However, , we have already establish important links with governmental programs that focus on the sustainable development and biodiversity conservation of the Lacandon Rain Forest and/ or the Usumacinta Basin region. These programs are:

- **Integral Program for the Sustainable Development of the Lacandon Rain Forest.**

The Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL) and the Ecology and Natural History Institute (IHNyE) manage this program[10] with the financial support of the European Community. The total amount of investment is of 16 million of Euros to be operated in the next 4 years. CI and PRONATURA will be seeking for opportunities of mainstreaming with this program (Annex 315-318).

- **Population, environment and sustainable development in the Lacandon Rain Forest.**

This program will be operated by the following agencies: Secretaria de Desarrollo Social (SDS), Instituto de Historia Natural y Ecología (IHNE), Secretaria de Pueblos Indios (SEPI), Instituto de Salud, del Gobierno del Estado, Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), Secretaría de Desarrollo Social (SEDESOL), Universidad Autónoma de Chiapas (UNACH) and Consejo Estatal de Población (COESPO) (**Annex 69**). This program for 3.5 years will be supported by the United Nations, and the total amount of funding is of 14.5 million of USD, that includes the Government of Mexico counterpart. CI already is participating in planning meetings within this program.

Another leveraging of financial support in the basin includes the following programs:

- PRONATURA Chiapas Wetlands Program (Annex 70).
- Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF). www.cepf.net

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[10] Both agencies are part of the Government of Chiapas.

H) List of Annexes.

Directory	Sub-directory	File Name	Author / Source	File Type	Annex Number
1_Reporte		First Semianual Report 2004	CI	Word	
		List of Annexes (*this file*)	CI	Word	
A_Plan de manejo de la Cuenca		Anexo Acuerdos Internacionales	CI	Word	1
		Anexo Biblio Usumacinta	CI	Word	2a
		Anexo catalogo Bases de datos	CI	Word	2b
		Anexo Cooperacion Mex-Gua	S.R.E. Internet	Word	3
		Anexo Impactos Boca del Cerro	CI	Word	4
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		Anexo Curso Manejo Cuencas	C.N.A.	Word	7
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		Anexo Plan Chiapas rehabilitacion microcuencas	SAGARPA/SDR	Word	16
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