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IMPLEMENTATION COMPLETION REPORT
(TF-28367)

ON A

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY TRUST FUND GRANT

IN THE AMOUNT OF SDR 5.1 MILLION (US$ 7.0 MILLION EQUIVALENT)

TO THE

REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS

FOR A

BIODIVERSITY IN PRIORITY AREAS PROJECT

December 20, 2005

Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development Sector Management Unit
Central America Country Management Unit
Latin America and the Caribbean Region

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(Exchange Rate Effective January 31, 2005)

Currency Unit	=	Lempiras
Lps 18.88	=	US$ 1
US$ 0.053	=	Lps 1

FISCAL YEAR

January 1 December 31

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFE-COHDEFOR	State Forestry Administration/Corporation for Forestry Development (*Administración Forestal del Estado-Corporación Hondureña de Desarrollo Forestal*)
BPPR	Forest and Rural Productivity Project
CAS	Country Assistance Strategy
COLAP	Local Committee for Protected Areas Management (*Consejo Local de Área Protegida*)
CONAPH	Honduran National Council on Protected Areas (*Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas de Honduras*)
CORAP	Regional Committee for Protected Areas Management (*Consejo Regional de Área Protegida*)
DAPVS	Department of Protected Areas and Wildlife (*Departamento de Áreas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre*)
FHAP	Honduran Fund for Protected Areas (Fondo *Hondureña de Áreas Protegidas*).
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GOH	Government of Honduras
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (*Banco Internacional de Reconstrucción y Fomento*)
ICR	Implementation Completion Report
IHT	Honduran Tourism Institute (*Instituto Hondureño de Turismo*)
MBC	Mesoamerican Biological Corridor
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PAAR	Rural Land Management Project (*Proyecto de Administración de Áreas Rurales*)
PACTA	Access to Land Pilot Project
PAD	Project Appraisal Document
PATH	Land Administration Project
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PROBAP	Biodiversity in Priority Areas Project (*Proyecto de Biodiversidad en Áreas Prioritarias*)
QAG	Quality Assurance Group
QSA	Quality of Supervision Assessment
REHDES	Honduran Ecological Network for Sustainable Development (*Red Ecologista Hondureña para el Desarrollo Sostenible*)
SAG	Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (*Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería*)
SERNA	Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment (*Secretaria de Recursos*

	Naturales y del Ambiente)
SINAPH	National Protected Areas System of Honduras (*Sistema Nacional Hondureño de Áreas Protegidas*)
UNDP	United Nations Development Program

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Sector Director	John Redwood
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HONDURAS
Biodiversity in Priority Areas Project (GEF)

CONTENTS

Project ID: P044343	*Project Name:* Biodiversity in Priority Areas Project (GEF)
Team Leader: Douglas J. Graham	*TL Unit:* LCSEN
ICR Type: Core ICR	*Report Date: December 21, 2005*

1. Project Data

Name: Biodiversity in Priority Areas Project (GEF) *L/C/TF Number:* TF-28367

Country/Department: HONDURAS *Region:* Latin America and the Caribbean Region

Sector/subsector: General agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (67%); Central government administration (22%); Sub-national government administration (11%)

Theme: Biodiversity (P); Environmental policies and institutions (P); Participation and civic engagement (P); Land administration and management (S)

KEY DATES		*Original*	*Revised/Actual*
PCD:	11/27/1996	*Effective:* 12/01/1997	08/20/1998
Appraisal:	05/27/1997	*MTR:* 02/28/2000	10/26/2001
Approval:	10/07/1997	*Closing:* 01/31/2003	06/30/2005

Borrower/Implementing Agency: Republic of Honduras/AFE-COHDEFOR (State Forestry Administration / Corporation for Forestry Development)

Other Partners: United Nations Development Programme

STAFF	Current	At Appraisal
Vice President:	Pamela Cox	Shahid Javed Burki
Country Director:	Jane Armitage	D-M Dowsett-Coirolo
Sector Director:	John Redwood	Maritta Koch-Weser
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2. Principal Performance Ratings

(HS=Highly Satisfactory, S=Satisfactory, U=Unsatisfactory, HL=Highly Likely, L=Likely, UN=Unlikely, HUN=Highly Unlikely, HU=Highly Unsatisfactory, H=High, SU=Substantial, M=Modest, N=Negligible)

Outcome: S

Sustainability: L

Institutional Development Impact: M

Bank Performance: S

Borrower Performance: S

	QAG (if available)	ICR
Quality at Entry:	S	S
Project at Risk at Any Time:	Yes	

3. Assessment of Development Objective and Design, and of Quality at Entry

3.1 Original Objective:

The overall objective of the GEF-financed Biodiversity in Priority Areas Project (PROBAP), which was partially blended with the IDA-financed Rural Land Management Project (PAAR) and jointly supervised with UNDP, was to contribute to the integrity of the Honduran section of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC) through better conservation of biodiversity in core areas and more sustainable use of biodiversity in buffer zones of priority protected areas. This was to be achieved by: (a) improved institutional capacity for parks management; (b) better and more participatory protection of selected protected areas (PAs); (c) support for sustainable natural resource management activities in the buffer areas; and (d) strengthening national biological monitoring capacity. While PAAR worked at the policy level on land tenure and forest ownership issues, the joint effort would strengthen the Honduran Protected Areas System (SINAPH) and the State Forestry Administration / Corporation for Forestry Development (AFE-COHDEFOR) with respect to implementing management plans and providing technical assistance to hillside farmers and forest producers. It would also improve infrastructure in select protected areas in order to increase income and thus sustain SINAPH over time.

Despite the fact that 24% of the national territory is classified as protected areas, many of these same areas were rapidly and systematically deteriorating. This was a result of the advance of the agricultural frontier, forest fires, unsustainable extraction of forest products, and poor natural resource management.

In this difficult context, the project objectives were clearly defined in an attempt to address the following key problems: (a) insufficient institutional capacity to change protected areas from "paper parks" to actively managed entities; (b) key areas without boundaries demarcated, management plans or community participation in management decisions; (c) lack of community participation in land use planning; and (d) lack of significant biodiversity monitoring in the MBC or the participation of local communities in these efforts. These objectives reflected country priorities at the time of appraisal and were further consistent with the 1993 Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) which addressed, among other issues, improving natural resource management related to forestry, protected areas management, and biodiversity conservation.

The project was planned to promote the conservation of globally significant biodiversity within the MBC. At the local level, sustainable natural resource management would generate increased income -- particularly within marginalized rural communities -- as well as protect important environmental services. At the national level, improved institutional capacity would provide benefits to the national economy. For instance, it was expected that the project would serve to boost environmentally-friendly ecotourism, thereby diversifying local incomes and supporting the financial sustainability of the protected areas system. At the global level, the project would protect globally significant biodiversity in priority areas. However, given the difficult context that emerged after project preparation -- Hurricane Mitch, which was one of the worst natural disasters in Latin America in the twentieth century, and the ensuing financial crisis as Honduras struggled to rebuild a devastated economy -- the development objectives are considered to have been overly ambitious, particularly as they relate to government execution.

3.2 Revised Objective:

The project's objectives were not changed.

3.3 Original Components:

The project financed the following four components:

3.3.1. Strengthening of DAPVS and Local Capacity for Protected Areas Management (US$2.6 million, 28% of

total project cost): This component supported: (a) development of in-service training courses and periodic in-depth courses for AFE-COHDEFOR's Protected Areas Division (DAPVS) staff; (b) curricula and courses for regional committee members, NGOs involved in protected areas and buffer zone activities, and staff of complementary biodiversity projects in the project area; (c) demand-driven training and study tours or interactions among members of the Local Protected Area Committees (COLAPs), including community-based organizations, productive organizations, indigenous organizations and federations, and private sector stakeholders; and (d) a project coordinator, operational expenditures, monitoring and evaluation, and special studies. In addition, funds were provided for studies and consensus-building activities to complement the national biodiversity strategy and improve the capacity for the development of management plans for core and buffer areas of the SINAPH.

3.3.2. Management of Globally Important Protected Areas (US$4.6 million, 48% of total project cost): This component financed: (a) management plans for priority protected areas and which did not have complementary financing from other donors for preparation of participatory management and operational plans; (b) demarcation of core and buffer zones of priority protected areas, with complementary delimitation of lands with indigenous property claims; (c) construction of a visitors' center in the Atlantic zone to expand the potential to attract and manage tourists in one protected area; (d) recruitment of personnel to manage select protected areas; and (e) construction of park guard facilities in some protected areas, including the acquisition and utilization of goods required for the operation of these facilities.

3.3.3. Improving Natural Resource Management in Buffer Zones (US$1.9 million, 21% of total project cost): This component financed buffer zone investments identified during the preparation of the protected areas management plans in the La Mosquitia region (including Patuca-Tawahka, Caratasca, Warunta, Rus-Rus). Recipients were groups of individuals within the communities in the buffer zones of the protected areas. Financing was channeled to groups selected by the COLAPs. In parallel, residents within buffer zones of all protected areas under the project received technical assistance to draft financing proposals.

3.3.4. Biological Monitoring (US$0.4 million, 3% of total project cost): This component supported the establishment of a monitoring system to determine major changes in the status of biodiversity in the Honduran portion of the MBC. Specifically, the project financed: (a) installation of computer and software in four regional offices and at DAPVS headquarters; (b) purchase and interpretation of satellite images to generate a baseline and comparative analyses of the project area; (c) two overflights and four field visits to the project area; (c) collection and analysis of data derived from on-the-ground surveillance by park guards and others; and (d) annual workshops on biological monitoring.

Project components and activities were designed in a manner that was consistent with the objective of contributing to the integrity of the Honduran portion of the MBC, through improved biodiversity conservation in priority protected areas and the sustainable use of biodiversity in buffer zones of those areas. During the first four years of the project, there was a full-time MBC focal point in Honduras -- financed from a regional UNDP/UNEP/GTZ/World Bank/Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) project -- who interacted closely with the PROBAP project. Indeed, the PROBAP project provided the institutional structure within which the MBC focal point was able to advance biodiversity conservation issues in Honduras.

The project components were directly related to the project's objectives and the implementing agency's capacity to carry them out. Recognizing that in order to protect core conservation areas the project would need to strengthen management of natural resources within buffer zones, the project took into account lessons learned from previous GEF-financed (and other) projects and allocated 21% of project resources to this end. Project preparation and implementation likewise recognized that, in order to have an effective

support from local communities, the project would need to strengthen not only the management capacity of those local communities but also the management capacity of the implementing agency. Correspondingly, the first component was designed to address these weaknesses and 28% of project resources were allocated to this task. The second component -- Management of Globally Important Protected Areas -- allocated 48% of the budget to key activities that were gleaned from years of experience generated from working on protected areas management. In particular, the participatory management plans are of critical importance and served as a vital subcomponent of the project.

3.4 Revised Components:

No major changes were made in project components. In order to respond to emerging priorities during implementation, four minor adjustments were made: (i) in Component 2, creation of protected areas in the La Mosquitia was removed from the project to respond to a request from indigenous peoples to address issues relating to indigenous land rights prior to establishing new protected areas; (ii) in Component 2, rather than focusing funding on one international-level visitor center, it was decided to finance three smaller-, locally-oriented visitor centers; (iii) in Component 3, $200,000 was used to finance emergency subprojects within the project area in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch. The subproject funds were allocated more quickly than would have been the case and were focused on emergency natural resource management needs of communities; that said, investments were consistent with the project objectives and Grant Agreement; and (iv) in Component 3, $500,000 was redirected from the protected areas management plan activities to an indigenous land tenure study in the La Mosquitia, as it was determined that uncertainties relating to indigenous land rights needed to be better understood to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the La Mosquitia.

3.5 Quality at Entry:

In line with the Quality Assurance Group's (QAG) 2002 Quality of Supervision Assessment (QSA)*, overall quality at entry is rated Satisfactory. The project objective was consistent with the 1993 CAS, which in turn reflected the priorities established in the GOH's development plan. Peer reviewers and Bank management endorsed the project design and objectives, which were consistent with the CAS. The QSA also noted that one of the most innovative aspects of the project was that it was the first GEF-financed project to be jointly prepared and supervised with UNDP. While administrative differences proved to be a challenge, it was ultimately beneficial to the project as UNDP has an in-country presence which facilitated day-to-day implementation of the project. UNDP was instrumental in project monitoring and providing technical assistance related to programming, planning and administration of funds and oversight of the budgetary and financial process. Local UNDP staff also provided technical assistance in reviewing terms of reference, reports, selecting project staff and consultants and maintaining close contact with the Project Implementation Unit.

The project addressed Honduras' most important protected areas issues while addressing issues of rural poverty. However, it was found that the project had three principal risks: (1) the advance of the agricultural frontier could render ineffective certain investments to conserve priority natural habitats; (2) complex land tenure issues could undermine indigenous involvement in the project; and (3) weak institutional capacity. These risks were addressed satisfactorily in the project design and the QSA supported the Bank's decision to proceed with the project despite those risks.

* While the main purpose of the Quality of Supervision Assessment is to assess the quality of operations during implementation, this exercise also delved into design aspects.

4. Achievement of Objective and Outputs

4.1 Outcome/achievement of objective:

The project's outcome is rated as **Satisfactory**. The achievement rating for the project development objective in the project's final ISR was noted as "Moderately Satisfactory" but the current rating system in ICR does not permit this nuance. If this project had fallen under the new ICR rating system ("Harmonized Evaluation Criteria for ICR and OED Evaluations"), which is due to take effect in late FY06, the project's final outcome would have been rated as "Moderately Satisfactory".

The project had significant and positive impacts at the national, regional, and local levels. It focused on three areas of the country: Atlántida, La Mosquitia, and Olancho. This combined area includes four departments and 16 municipalities. The project had a special emphasis in the latter two departments, where development assistance has traditionally been scarce given regional isolation. PROBAP made specific investments in 12 protected areas of global significance. It was particularly relevant in the context of national and regional efforts to test biodiversity conservation and protected area management systems that are compatible with national policies, including the decentralization policy and the national Poverty Reduction Strategy. The area in which PROBAP was present corresponds to 38% of the total protected areas under SINAPH (see Annex 11). However, due to obstacles encountered during implementation, the national impact was more modest than initially anticipated.

In terms of the objectives of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the goals of conserving and sustainably managing globally important biodiversity resources were met. Under the project, the second- and third-largest protected areas in the country were established (Patuca National Park and Tawakha Indigenous Reserve, respectively) and important advances were made in protecting biodiversity in all key sites of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC) in Honduras. For example, collaboration networks were established that work toward the protection and sustainable use of biological corridors in Atlántida -- along the northern Caribbean coastline -- and in the area of the proposed Corazón Transboundary Reserve. Deforestation rates in the Patuca, Tawahka, and Rus-Rus Reserves have stabilized at 0.81% per annum, below the national average of 1.21%.

The contribution to sustainable natural resource management goals of the World Bank's 2000 and 2003 Country Assistance Strategy is real but modest. These strategy documents promote sustainable development in priority areas through improved natural resource management, including decentralization and transfer of natural resource management responsibilities to local communities. The project supported this recommendation by increasing and improving participatory protection of selected protected areas and also by introducing biodiversity-friendly natural resource management practices through local community organizations and NGOs.

As a result of the support to the political and institutional framework of SINAPH, particularly to the Department of Protected Areas and Wildlife (DAPVS) and to the Honduran National Council of Protected Areas (CONAPH), the project was able to improve the institutional capacity for strategic planning, priority area setting, and identification of co-funding.

The project had a significant impact on the management of buffer zones of priority protected areas due to its ability to bring about a change in the attitudes of communities and civil society at the local level within or adjacent to priority protected areas. The result was greater local participation in the management and sustainable use of natural resources. It bears noting that many of the local communities which benefited from the project are located in remote areas with high levels of poverty and extreme poverty, with relatively little institutional presence of the national government.

Project activities were successfully implemented and their impacts were positive and relevant to the country. The project team was able to realize these successes despite numerous delays* . Although in retrospect one may judge that the initial project development objectives were overly ambitious, great strides were made not only in consolidating priority protected areas within the MBC in Honduras but rather in sustaining the entire protected areas system. During the life of the project, PROBAP constituted more than half of the national government's operational budget for the management of the entire SINAPH. That said, at the national level, the project laid the foundation for financial sustainability of the SINAPH by establishing the Protected Areas Fund which will finance a decentralized, deconcentrated protected areas management system. The overall achievement of project objectives and outputs is therefore rated Moderately Satisfactory.

* Delays were mainly due to Hurricane Mitch, a weak institutional counterpart (AFE-COHDEFOR), lack of counterpart funding during most of the project, and the drastic reduction in personnel due to a restructuring of AFE-COHDEFOR.

4.2 Outputs by components:

4.2.1 Strengthening of DAPVS and Local Capacity for Protected Areas Management

The component is rated **Moderately Unsatisfactory**.

From an institutional perspective, the project strengthened protected areas management by different stakeholders at the local, regional, and national levels. This includes local community organizations, nongovernmental organizations, co-managers of protected areas, local governments, and governmental institutions.

A detailed analysis of the strategies adopted by the project reveals a range of positive innovations, successful processes, and substantial accomplishments. The component produced the following outputs:

- As a result of the support to SINAPH and particularly to the Department of Protected Areas and Wildlife (DAPVS) and to the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAPH), the following outcomes are noteworthy: a) SINAPH's Strategic Plan (2004) establishing short-, medium-, and long-term actions; b) instruments for protected area management including rationalization and identification of protected priority areas, which have served as an input for other national strategies (e.g., the 2004 National Ecotourism Strategy of the Honduran Institute of Tourism (IHT) and the 2005-2010 Institutional Plan of the Honduran Ecologist Network for Sustainable Development (REHDES); c) the creation of the Honduran Fund of Protected Areas (FHAP), as a financial mechanism for the sustainability of the priority protected areas; and d) a co-management policy which has allowed for the decentralization of protected areas management under transparent operational guidelines;
- The above-mentioned activities have facilitated the participation of local, regional, and national stakeholders in protected area management. That said, the financial resources required to implement all of the management plans have not yet materialized;
- A greater capacity of the principal actors to: a) manage protected areas; b) prepare and implement management plans; c) prepare and implement technical and administrative directives; and d) endow infrastructure and equipment to NGOs and AFE-COHDEFOR in Olancho, Atlántida, and La Mosquitia;
- The creation of grassroots organizations with an entrepreneurial spirit and a willingness to participate in conservation activities was critical in promoting sustainability of locally-managed PAs, although issues such as monitoring and capital for operating costs, as well as their role in the community's organizational system have yet to be resolved;
- Processes of strengthening through training, technical advice, infrastructure, and financing are

acceptable and, despite the obstacles encountered, have progressed satisfactorily;

- Under the capacity building plan, 6,244 hours/person of training were provided. This is equivalent to 866 persons from the co-managing NGOs, DAPVS, and other institutions who are contributing to protected areas management in priority areas.

4.2.2 Management of Globally Important Protected Areas

This component is rated **Moderately Satisfactory**.

Solely from the geographical area covered (1.2 million hectares), PROBAP activities were of national and global importance. This area includes strengthening management in twelve protected areas of global significance, located in the area of influence of 4 departments and 16 municipalities. PROBAP's area of influence corresponds to 38% of the National Protected Areas System of Honduras (SINAPH).

The Atlántida region has good road infrastructure, a solid NGO base, various community organizations, strong international donor activity with more than two decades of presence, and robust government support as reflected in the region's development plans. These conditions made it possible to leverage project activities which is seen in the impact it has had on the supported priority areas.

In the Olancho and La Mosquitia regions, several noteworthy outcomes can be highlighted which corroborate the important impact of the project. These include: a) development and strengthening of entities and key actors in the management of protected areas which were non-existent before the project; b) introduction of efforts related to sustainable natural resource management and adaptation of such programs to ethnic groups with their own view of conservation; c) development of new participatory conservation modalities, with decisionmaking led by local communities; and d) participatory management plans in the demarcation of priority protected areas.

The emergence of a new generation of technical and para-technical experts trained in a diversity of conservation themes was relevant not only for the project but also for Honduran civil society. PROBAP was also responsible for the strengthening of the network of service providers working in protected areas.

The project was also responsible for producing many reports on conservation and protected areas including studies, diagnostics, manuals, systemizations, and operational plans. The most important outputs include:

- Establishment of the Patuca National Park and Tawahka Indigenous Reserve which are the second- and third-largest protected areas in the country, respectively.
- Establishment of a biologically-viable, *in situ*, Minimum Conservation System representative of existing biodiversity. Thirty-eight protected areas were prioritized for conservation of globally-significant biodiversity and provision of other environmental goods and services. [Note: PROBAP financed activities in 12 of these 38 protected areas.] Under this system, it is estimated that the priority areas within SINAPH conserve between 70 to 90% of the country's biodiversity (Dobson 1996; D. Vreugdenhil 2002). This proposal has been accepted by the Government of Honduras and is widely accepted by other stakeholders in Honduras. The proposed Forest and Protected Areas and Wildlife Law builds on the concept of the Minimum Conservation System.
- Six management plans covering 793,290 hectares of protected areas, corresponding to 25% of the SINAPH. These management plans reflect a local, regional, and national consensus consistent with modern concepts of core conservation areas and buffer zones.
- 468 km (compared to the 350 km target) of physical delimitation and demarcation of priority protected areas.
- Construction of three visitors' centers, an environmental training center, and seven knowledge centers

equipped and operating in the priority areas of Pico Bonito, Cuero y Salado, and Jeannette Kawas. The administration of these areas is being carried out under an agreement with co-managing NGOs. In addition, two eco-lodges were constructed, one in the community of "Las Mangas" in Ceiba and the other in the community of Mistruk, in Puerto Lempira. These are managed by local community enterprises.

- The establishment of a network of NGOs and local community organizations with increased capacity to execute, with strengthened technical staff and a commitment to the conservation of the protected areas under their responsibility. In addition, new organizations emerged in Olancho and La Mosquitia and were strengthened under the project. These are key to the management of protected areas which did not exist prior to PROBAP. These organizations are conservation pioneers in departments which have been traditionally under-represented in assistance efforts by international donors nor government institutions.
- The emergence of a new generation of technicians and para-technicians trained in a diversity of conservation topics is important not only for the project but for the entire conservation sector in Honduras.

Despite these successes, declining government support for protected areas in Honduras brings into question the sustainability of some actions. For example, one visitor center collapsed during a tropical storm in late 2005 due to a failure to complete physical works. The recent establishment of the Protected Areas Fund to cover protected areas' recurrent expenses, supported under this project, will be an important step toward sustainability.

While the management of a number of protected areas is being led by NGOs, not all areas received the funding necessary to follow through with established management plans. To a large extent, the sustainability of the management of protected areas of globally significant importance hinged, from the outset, on the approval and implementation of the Protected Areas Fund which would generate sufficient resources to cover these expenses, including recurrent costs. The Fund had been created but was not yet operational at project closure. Follow-up on the Fund will continue under several Bank-financed natural resource management projects beyond the life of the this GEF-financed project.

4.2.3 Improving Natural Resource Management in Buffer Zones

This component is rated **Satisfactory** and produced the major outputs described below:

- 115 rural communities (2,562 families) located in highly disadvantaged zones benefited from with 34 subprojects totaling US$1.2 million (see Annex 9 for a list of subprojects financed). In this process, 34 community leaders were trained, 21 communities increased their management capacity, and 7 subprojects have achieved significant levels of sustainability. The other 14 will require follow-up support from international donors or the Government of Honduras.
- Twelve grassroots organizations benefited from a process of institutional strengthening in terms of organizational, technical, leadership, accounting, and administrative aspects. As a result of this process, eight organizations have legal status and the status of four others is pending. All 12 organizations have their own strategic plan for community development and are improving their ability to manage resources.
- Links were established with various on-the-ground counterpart organizations, with a wide variety and level of management experience and capacity, and willingness to monitor local community initiatives. The direct participation of Honduran NGOs in subproject execution, acting as support organizations or technical monitors for local community entities, allowed the project to play a relevant role in the context of the ongoing debate and management of environmental institutions at national and regional levels.
- Subprojects helped create social capital, promote strategic alliances, and create new structures in the zone. These local investments have allowed greater linkages between grassroots organizations and

monitoring organizations. These relationships will enable the sustainability of subprojects.

- One product of particular importance is the preparation of a proposed Buffer Zone Management Strategy. This document constitutes the conceptual and methodological basis to carry out the definition of national-level institutional policies and strategies, which in turn will contribute to the design and implementation of operating rules in priority areas.
- The "Diagnostic of Land Status and Tenure in Garífuna and Miskita Communities" study defined the land tenure problem in Garífuna and Miskita communities and identified community measures to resolve land conflicts. As an outcome of this study, an indigenous-led land commission (TASBA) in was created in La Mosquitia. This study served as the basis for a series of local-level proposals, particularly in the region of La Mosquitia, which were presented to the National Agrarian Institute (INA).
- The most significant aspect stemming from project activities financed under this component is that in a context of extreme poverty and social exclusion, the conservation of protected areas and their buffer zones will contribute to the long-term sustainability of local communities.

Local rural communities expressed, through surveys and regional workshops in Olancho and Atlántida, that their participation in subprojects increased their knowledge on alternative production methods while improving local livelihoods. Subprojects incorporated activities which contributed to developing a positive attitude towards local community resource management and conservation, while diversifying incomes of local communities. In extremely poor communities where there was close contact with protected areas staff, the project supported wildlife management (e.g., white tailed deer, iguanas), ecotourism and reforestation activities.

PROBAP also supported the strengthening of local organizations as a basic condition for the promotion of sustainable natural resource management activities. The social networks that resulted from project activities contributed to improved communication with other local organizations. These relationships have been an important factor in subproject sustainability.

4.2.4. Biological Monitoring

The component is rated **Moderately Satisfactory**. The key output expected was the establishment of a biological monitoring system that makes it possible to determine major changes in the status of biodiversity in the project's priority protected areas. Component achievements include:

- A Monitoring System was designed, was approved by DAPVS, and is being implemented in 19 of the 38 priority protected areas covering 2.1 million hectares (i.e., 68% of the current SINAPH).
- In AFE-COHDEFOR's restructuring (2004), AFE-COHDEFOR has officially approved the creation of a Monitoring Unit within DAPVS in order to monitor actions that the project initiated.
- A computerized database with approximately 10,000 entries on protected areas, which may be used to perform statistical analyses. The database combines Visual Basic and Arc View. Fourteen non-governmental organizations are participating in this process, as well as three international cooperation projects: Río Plátano Reserve Project, Improving Our Heritage Project, and REHDES–NEPHENTES Tourism Project*.
- Increased understanding of the status of biodiversity in priority protected areas, given a number of studies and analyses performed in priority protected areas involved. Findings include: a) sighting and registration of species such as the Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*), Harpy Eagle (*Harpia harpyja*), White Bat (*Ectophylla alba*), Giant Anteater (*Myrmercophaga tridactila*), Annulated Tree Boa (*Corallus annulatus*), and Jaguar. Some of these species are newly reported in Honduras and others had not been reported since 1984; b) annual study of the life cycle of the Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*), a species emblematic of the country, highly threatened and on the IUCN Red List and in CITES Appendix 1; c) scientific study of the status of the Emerald Hummingbird's habitat in

the Arenal Dry Forest; and d) multitemporal analysis of Patuca, Tawahka, and Rus-Rus areas.

- Data collection and partial evaluations were accompanied by 37 reconnaissance overflights (close to 70 hours of flight) and 15 land trips involving 105 days of field activities.
- 32 organizations participated directly or indirectly in activities related to biological monitoring. These include co-managing NGOs, universities, government institutions, international cooperation projects, local government representatives, and various grassroots organizations. It is important to highlight the fact that various international researchers understand and utilize the results generated by the biological monitoring and have generated new information building upon PROBAP-financed activities.
- 104 resource wardens were trained in biological monitoring activities. This has made it possible for increased understanding and participation -- particularly by local communities -- in research being performed in protected areas.

Despite the significance of the monitoring component and the importance of park rangers as the principal driving force in the field behind this activity, nearly all of their contracts were not renewed at the end of the project. This effectively reduced or eliminated field monitoring capacity. The project was not able to consolidate the monitoring component despite having executed tasks as outlined in the project document. The satellite images were purchased but were not used to create the monitoring baseline. Information generated was to have been placed on the website for public use but this did not occur. In summary, despite some successes, the project did not leave a functional and sustainable biological monitoring system to the country.

* Honduran Pilot Sustainable Tourism Project (REHDES-NEPHENTES)

4.3 Net Present Value/Economic rate of return:
N/A

4.4 Financial rate of return:
A financial rate of return is typically not calculated for GEF-financed biodiversity conservation projects. However, the financial sustainability of SINAPH is a key element of the project concept and an important step was taken with the creation of the Protected Areas Fund in 2005.

4.5 Institutional development impact:
The project's institutional development impact is considered to be **Modest**.

The project's role in improving the country's ability to make effective use of its human and financial resources in relation to protected area management was significant. PROBAP had a good degree of flexibility in seeking options and making use of strategic alliances with NGOs that co-manage protected areas in Atlántida, local development organizations in Olancho, and technical monitoring in La Mosquitia. However, management mechanisms involving more stakeholders (e.g., mayors' offices, projects, networks) must be improved in order to make project results stronger and sustainable in the long term.

The project's support through DAPVS provided AFE-COHDEFOR with the tools (e.g., administrative, analytical) necessary for decision making, strengthening operational capacity of principal stakeholders involved with protected area management, introducing new concept of co-management. It also opened spaces for the restructuring and consolidation of the National Protected Areas System (SINAPH).

Despite the 2004 restructuring of AFE-COHDEFOR and the subsequent weakening of DAPVS at the end of the project, the project was successful in creating a protected areas management capacity outside of government institutions. The effective participation of local communities and institutions in the

management of protected areas is perhaps the single most important contribution to the sustainability of the protected areas system in Honduras.

The project, in conjunction with the PAAR Project (and the follow-on Forestry and Rural Productivity project currently under implementation), laid the groundwork for the new Forestry and Protected Areas Law that is currently under consideration in Congress. PAAR dealt with policies and issues about people living in forests and led the dialogue with the government on the Forestry and Protected Areas law, as well as on the Protected Areas Fund; PROBAP focused on forest conservation. Furthermore, PROBAP's results and lessons learned contributed strategically to establishing national goals set out in the Forests and Biodiversity Subprogram of the National Forestry Program (PRONAFOR).

5. Major Factors Affecting Implementation and Outcome

5.1 Factors outside the control of government or implementing agency:

The destruction caused by Hurricane Mitch in 1998 was profound. The effects of the damage are still present physically and psychologically in Honduras, particularly in rural areas. It is estimated that over 7,000 people died during the hurricane.

The storm's devastation dramatically changed Honduras' economic outlook. Already one of the poorest countries in Central America, it was significantly weakened by Hurricane Mitch. It sustained approximately US$3 billion in damage, an amount equivalent to nearly 60 percent of its 1999 GDP. Hardest hit was the agriculture sector. The hurricane destroyed up to 70% of Honduras' basic crops, robbing the people not only of daily foodstuffs, but also critical exports. Activities in the project were delayed by Hurricane Mitch and had serious difficulties in the following year due to problems attributable to post-hurricane impacts.

Subsequently, in 2001 Tropical Storm Michelle pounded Honduras, forcing the government to once more declare a state of emergency. This impacted project execution and further delayed project implementation.

The closing date of the Project was extended by 2.5 years due to two main factors. As indicated above, natural disasters slowed project implementation. In addition, project effectiveness was delayed related to a condition of effectiveness related to the submission of draft legislation to Congress related to the establishment of Patuca, Tawahka, and Punta Izopo protected areas. A disbursement condition for the Management of Globally Important Protected Areas Component contributed to the delay and eventually was waived by the Bank.

5.2 Factors generally subject to government control:

Institutional instability and lack of follow-through by COHDEFOR, the main counterpart agency, were the principal reasons, beyond natural disasters, for slowness of project execution. Changes in government, with the consequent replacement of most civil servants within AFE-COHDEFOR, contributed to implementation problems.

Second, the Government did not provide the required counterpart. At the end of the project, this resulted in the cancellation of US$205,888 of the GEF grant. Unfortunately, this was money earmarked for construction of sorely needed infrastructure in protected areas. To a large extent, the lack of counterpart funds led to the partial collapse of the Pico Bonito Visitors' Center, damaged during a recent tropical storm. With appropriate counterpart funds, a needed retention wall and bridge would have been constructed.

Another important consideration was that the counterpart agency, AFE-COHDEFOR, faced a crisis in 2004 stemming from corruption and violence that broke out as a result of confrontation between conservation groups and the timber industry. This especially affected areas in Olancho where the project was operating. As a result, the President of Honduras named a committee to take over management of AFE-COHDEFOR and develop transparent rules and procedures for the effective control of the forest sector. This generated a transitional phase characterized by a partial paralysis of the AFE-COHDEFOR. At this time, Congress is discussing a proposed Forest and Protected Areas and Wildlife Law, which would eliminate AFE-COHDEFOR and AFE-COHDEFOR's DAPVS, while creating a cabinet-level Ministry of Forestry and Protected Areas with two main departments, one for forests and the other for protected areas. At the time of the ICR, this proposed law remains under discussion in Honduras.

5.3 Factors generally subject to implementing agency control:

In the early years, project management problems were eventually resolved by replacing the project coordinator and restructuring the Project Implementation Unit (PIU). The Operational Manual and Task Management Manual were updated and an acceptable accounting system was installed. Quarterly audit and informational reports were established for presentation to AFE-COHDEFOR, to UNDP and to the World Bank. A more systematic monitoring plan was implemented with closer supervision by World Bank and UNDP missions.

A special 2000–2001 audit found several ineligible expenses. The new PIU team spent a significant amount of time documenting and justifying these expenses. The PIU documented all but US$8,426 of the ineligible expenses under review. This sum was returned by AFE-COHDEFOR to the World Bank. All of this activity unfortunately diverted attention from implementation and thus contributed to project delays.

The project has been successful, despite institutional problems with the counterpart agency, AFE-COHDEFOR, due to the quality and commitment of the staff within DAPVS, and especially of the PIU.

5.4 Costs and financing:

As previously mentioned, the only significant change in project costs was a reorientation of US$500,000 to an indigenous land study. The indigenous land study responded to indigenous communities who maintained that the land tenure situation needed to be resolved before establishing protected areas. This reallocation was not between components but rather a prioritization within Component 3. Similarly, the post-Hurricane Mitch reallocation was within the same component.

Disbursement holdups were significant due to delays in the provision of counterpart funding.

6. Sustainability

6.1 Rationale for sustainability rating:

The project's overall sustainability is rated as **Likely** despite several issues mentioned below. The project laid the foundations for sustainability, notably decentralizing and deconcentrating management of the national protected area system, and strengthening the capacity of local communities and NGOs to co-manage priority protected areas. In conjunction with the approval of the new forestry law, this will allow for the improved protected areas management by local stakeholders.

Project-financed studies (e.g., "SINAPH Strategic Plan", "National System of Prioritized Protected Areas"), are considered by experts as the fundamental basis for the consolidation of a national program of *in situ* biodiversity conservation. The Forest Law proposal is being discussed based on the prioritized system of protected areas.

The project built on a rich experience of projects and dialogue with the forestry and agricultural sectors and was able to benefit from that experience by blending the project with the IBRD-financed Rural Land Management Project (PAAR) and by ensuring continuity and consistency in policies and strategic positioning on questions such as land rights, forestry, indigenous peoples, and protected areas.* As designed during the PROBAP project preparation, PAAR would have a follow-on phase to provide continuity to the policy dialogue on the critical issues of land management. Indeed, three projects evolved out of PAAR, all of which are currently under implementation. These include: Access to Land Pilot Project (PACTA), the Land Administration APL Project (PATH), and the Forest and Rural Productivity Project (BPPR). PACTA grew out of the experience of the implementation of PAAR and lessons learned from several other projects on land issues (e.g., market based approaches, legal access to land); PATH focuses on the critical issue of land administration; BPPR focuses on increasing the economic benefits and environmental services derived from forest ecosystems in selected low income municipalities with high agro-forestry potential.

Insofar as PROBAP was a partially-blended operation with PAAR, concrete steps have been taken to date by the GOH for forestry sector reform, reinforced by the restructured AFE-COHDEFOR. These reforms continue to be supported under the Bank-financed BPPR project. This continued engagement with the Government of Honduras on natural resource management will be further strengthened under the multi-country GEF-financed Transboundary Corazón Project currently under preparation. Nevertheless, the changes in the legal and institutional framework of AFE-COHDEFOR (accompanied by the drastic reduction of human and financial resources) have significantly affected the implementation of activities and the achievement of PROBAP's results and objectives.

The strengthening of local capacity remains one of the project's most important accomplishments, as does the development of SINAPH management instruments. However, the institutional strengthening of DAPVS itself cannot be considered sustainable given the declining government commitment and funding for protected areas particularly towards the end of the project.

The efforts of PROBAP to provide systematic capacity building in tune with the needs of DAPVS, were executed satisfactorily. Nevertheless, implementation of management plans depends on trained human resources which the institution was not able to retain (e.g., dismissal of technical staff and park rangers during the AFE-COHDEFOR restructuring in 2004).

PROBAP supported the production of several essential management tools for the management of the protected areas: SINAPH Strategic Plan, Rationalization of SINAPH, SINAPH Financial Sustainability Strategy, design of the Protected Areas Fund (in coordination with the PAAR Project), Manual of Technical and Administrative Standards for SINAPH Protected Areas Management, Manual of Technical and Administrative Standards for Wildlife Management, Guidelines for Preparing Protected Areas Management Plans, Study of the Implementation of Community Organizations (CORAPs and COLAPs), and Guidelines for Establishing Boundaries and Demarcating Protected Areas. However, some of these instruments are not well known or used by AFE-COHDEFOR, which, while undergoing this transition period with limited human and financial resources, has had a limited capacity to absorb the wealth of knowledge generated by PROBAP.

* For more information, see World Bank. Honduras Rural Land Management project ICR–Report No. 30234.

6.2 Transition arrangement to regular operations:

The recipient has proposed a good transition strategy for the project (Annex 10). Elements of the strategy

that require a significant role of the State are not considered entirely feasible but the transition of many project investments to the non-governmental sector holds considerable promise. The main elements of this transition strategy focus on: a) implementing the Protected Areas Fund; b) promoting the officially-approved SINAPH Strategic Plan nationally and internationally; c) continuing support to community organizations; d) continuing to strengthen monitoring capacity at the government and local community level; e) developing the business plan for Pico Bonito and Cuero y Salado Protected Areas; and f) coordinating and collaborating with the Transboundary Corazon Project.

7. Bank and Borrower Performance

Bank

7.1 Lending:

As determined in the 2002 QAG review, Bank performance during project preparation was **Satisfactory**. The Bank preparation team took into account government policies and strategies that were in effect at that time and included broad alliances with other major donors, most notably with UNDP. It was during this time that an agreement was reached to jointly supervise the project. Considerable efforts were made to clarify initial arrangements with UNDP but this proved challenging due to institutional differences. The mix of staff and consultants involved in project preparation was satisfactory, with specialists in biodiversity, indigenous and social issues, and agricultural/forestry policies.

Two shortcomings can be noted. First, the Bank and UNDP failed to concretely and clearly establish procedures for project joint supervision. Neither the informal arrangements nor the legal agreement signed between the Bank and UNDP were sufficient to prevent problems from emerging in subsequent years relating to relative responsibilities for supervision of financial management and procurement by the Borrower and relating to reimbursement of supervision costs. Second, in retrospect, the Bank probably erred in its estimates of the Recipient's execution and absorption capacity.

7.2 Supervision:

Bank supervision was **Satisfactory**. Uniquely for GEF-financed projects in Latin America, this project was jointly-supervised with UNDP-Honduras. This partnership was positive for the quality of supervision. UNDP staff responded to project needs on a day-to-day basis and particularly contributed to administrative supervision but also contributed to project technical issues. Bank staff visited the country on supervision missions, and were responsible for the bulk of supervision of technical issues. The fact that the Bank project team was involved in three or four other similar projects in Honduras (as well as other projects in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor in Central America and Mexico) and that the Bank team worked closely together as a team greatly facilitated a constant and close supervision of the project. The QAG review of Quality of Supervision in 2002 noted that supervision was sometimes inadequate in the early years of the project but strengthened considerably after the Mid-Term Review and overall was Satisfactory.

Supervision missions were composed of a broad mix of international and local professionals. The core supervision team was maintained throughout the project, notwithstanding a change in task management in 2002 when the original TTL went on external assignment from the Bank. A total of 33 supervision missions, including the mid-term evaluation, were carried out. On safeguards, the most significant Bank operational policy that was triggered was the OP on Indigenous Peoples. A Bank indigenous people's specialist participated in 12 of 33 supervision missions, as well as during project preparation. For the last three years of the project, the team also included an indigenous specialist in the Bank's Honduras Country Office. The Bank's first task manager was an anthropologist and indigenous people's specialist. As a result, the project was very responsive to indigenous peoples' issues, such as the reallocation of project funds to cover the study on indigenous land tenure in the Mosquitia. Minor safeguard issues in subprojects were

considered as a part of regular supervision missions (the Bank staff member who assumed responsibility for the project in 2002 is a core member of LCR's Safeguards Unit and had considerable expertise in Bank safeguards in general).

Procurement and weak project management were indeed major concerns in the period leading up the Mid-Term Review. The QAG reviewers noted that closer supervision in these areas by the Bank and UNDP early on would have strengthened overall supervision. The MTR did not result in a restructuring of the project's objective and components; however, the local Project Coordinator was replaced at the time of the MTR and the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) was restructured. This had immediate positive effects, particularly with regard to solving administrative difficulties. Eventually, all audit and financial management problems were solved satisfactorily.

UNDP, in close collaboration with the PIU, supported all administrative activities, monitored compliance with procedures established in the Grant Agreement, maintained records of project operations, and followed through on procurement, disbursements, and budgetary issues, by and large to the Bank's satisfaction. When there were discrepancies, these were addressed promptly and resolved to all parties' satisfaction within a reasonable amount of time.

7.3 Overall Bank performance:

Overall performance is considered **Satisfactory**. This rating takes into account the joint supervision with UNDP.

The PAAR and PROBAP projects were developed as one of the first GEF-IBRD partially blended operations in the Latin America region. PAAR became effective December 1997 and PROBAP in August 1998. From 1998 to 2001, the projects had a very tight coordination with the PAAR project's Biodiversity Subcomponent located in the offices of DAPVS where PROBAP was also located. These years were quite productive, with PAAR leading the policy dialogue with the Government and PROBAP dealing with the practical issues of biodiversity conservation and natural resources management in the field.

Borrower

7.4 Preparation:

Preparation performance was **Satisfactory** with an adequate contribution by the Borrower during the year required to design the project. Excellent local consultants hired by the Borrower played instrumental roles in project preparation. The less-than-optimal involvement of key staff from AFE-COHDEFOR itself, and in particular from the Protected Areas Division (DAPVS), probably contributed to weaknesses in the project design in terms of defining the government's role in the project.

7.5 Government implementation performance:

Government performance was **Unsatisfactory**. This is principally due to two problems. First, there was a failure to provide timely and sufficient counterpart financing as defined in the Grant Agreement. Insufficient counterpart funds eventually resulted in an under-execution of the Grant and the return of $205,888 of grant funds to the GEF. Delays in counterpart funding could have resulted in major difficulties in implementation had it not been for UNDP's willingness to frequently provide bridge funding for the project. Second, the Government gradually reduced its support to protected areas in the country, eliminating funding and staffing for DAPVS following the significant social and economic upheaval which occurred after Hurricane Mitch, and failed to seriously pursue the agreed-upon establishment of a Protected Areas Fund whose design had been ready since 2003 until late in the project.

7.6 Implementing Agency:

The performance of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in AFE-COHDEFOR was **Satisfactory**. Early problems with project administration were subsequently resolved when a strong new team was put in place after the MTR. Under difficult circumstances, the PIU team achieved many important goals under the project and was able to complete the bulk of project objectives. The support of AFE-COHDEFOR, the institution which housed the PIU, was more variable over the lifetime of the project. Under some general managers, there was strong support for the project whereas under others, the project and protected areas issues in general languished.

During the first three years, PROBAP had a close coordination with the PAAR Biodiversity Subcomponent Coordinator's office located in the offices of DAPVS where PROBAP was also located. As indicated above, these years were quite productive. However, the Coordinator -- and indeed the entire PAAR project -- eventually moved to the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG), weakening coordination after the MTR

7.7 Overall Borrower performance:

The overall rating for Borrower performance is considered **Satisfactory**. [Note: If this project had fallen under the new ICR rating system ("Harmonized Evaluation Criteria for ICR and OED Evaluations"), which is due to take effect late in FY06, this rating would be rated as "Moderately Satisfactory".] This overall rating should be seen as reflecting an unsatisfactory Government performance balanced by quite a satisfactory performance from the Implementation Unit. As indicated previously, the project had significant positive impacts in the field, despite faltering and inconsistent government performance. The project developed strong local capacity for Protected Area management and leaves behind a Protected Areas Fund which will decentralize from the State much of the responsibility for day-to-day management of the protected areas.

8. Lessons Learned

On the basis of the project assessment above, the following lessons can be drawn for similar biodiversity conservation projects:

Promote full community involvement at all stages of project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Implementation of the local subprojects corroborated the fact that this involvement improves ownership of the project by local organizations. At the same time, the involvement of communities in the planning and implementation of sustainable resource management and biodiversity protection was shown to be important for the development of strategic protected area management plans in accordance with local needs.

Combine conservation efforts with activities aimed at meeting socioeconomic needs. This is fully consistent with the project's approach of providing financial support for community–based conservation by complementing protection with sustainable use in buffer zones. The Community Project Fund under implementation by PROBAP is a good example of combining conservation efforts with socioeconomic needs.

Coordinate conservation activities with those involving land management. PROBAP activities explored synergies with the land management activities of the PAAR project and thus obtained results that would otherwise not have been possible. While PAAR dealt with the policy dialogue on forests and people in forests, PROBAP complemented this by focusing on conservation and sustainable management of those forests.

Ensure flexible, long-term approaches. Effective conservation of protected areas requires flexible, long-term approaches that include adaptive management based on feedback from experience. This means that management plans need to be revised, evaluated, and updated periodically with the participation of local communities.

Promote collaboration with NGOs, local governments, and other public institutions. The project confirmed that a strong partnership and collaboration among public authorities, local governments, NGOs, and communities is very important for project implementation, particularly when the public sector partner is weak. This partnership has been shown to be very effective in the preparation and implementation of management plans for protected areas, demarcation of boundaries, consultation processes, identification, design, monitoring, and evaluation of community projects.

Ensure that local committees are representative and flexible. The local committees of protected areas (COLAPs) must be flexible and composed mostly of local members who have a real interest and involvement in protected areas. Public institutions such as AFE-COHDEFOR, local government, and others may participate as facilitators of the participation processes.

Coordinate efforts effectively at the national level. Despite the fact that consolidation of the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAPH) is still a pending activity, the improvement of coordination at the national level among governmental organizations was found to be necessary. If CONAPH were well structured, civil society might have had a more coherent voice that could have exerted influence at the policy and regulatory levels in favor of the reforms that the project sought (e.g., the Protected Areas Fund, strategic plan for SINAPH, policy on land rights of the indigenous people located in protected areas).

Pay attention to socioeconomic and political conditions. The importance of paying attention to the broader political and socioeconomic environment within which project activities take place cannot be overstated. In this case, it meant the project's involvement in the proposed forestry sector reforms, and other issues related to the protected areas and biodiversity conservation, such as the discussions on the Protected Areas Fund and institutional reforms of the forestry sector.

Build flexibility into project design. The project was experimental in various aspects, including the application of concepts in planning and management of protected areas, declaration of new protected areas, community participation in the protection and management of priority protected areas, and the processes of building local and national capacity. The project's flexibility in forging strategic alliances with co-management NGOs in Atlántica Region, local development organizations in Olancho, and technical assistance and supervision of subprojects in La Mosquitia proved essential in implementing activities and realizing stated objectives.

Clarify institutional responsibilities for project execution. The project was executed by AFE-COHDEFOR and jointly supervised by the World Bank and UNDP. This situation brought many complications to the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in the execution of the project. Having to respond to the rules and regulations of two international bureaucracies complicated administrative processes, affecting procurement and disbursement.

9. Partner Comments

(a) Borrower/implementing agency:

The General Administrator of AFE-COHDEFOR conveyed to the Bank the Government's comments on the ICR in a letter dated December 20, 2005. The following is a translated version of the comments. "As the implementing agency of the project we would like to express our satisfaction with the process and transparency with which the project was implemented. We also recognize with satisfaction the evaluation of the project's performance. We recognize the significant impact the project had in consolidating Honduras' Protected Areas and in initiatives such as the Strategic Protected Areas Plan, the support to the SINAPH, the Protected Areas Fund and the support in building infrastructure. We also recognize that because of lack of time and financial resources visitor centers were not built. We note the unfortunate loss of the Pico Bonito National Park Visitor Center due to Tropical Storm Gama and the lack of counterpart funding for complementary work. Nevertheless, we recognize that one incident does not minimize the support and consolidation of Honduras' Protected Areas System provided by the project."

(b) Cofinanciers:

(c) Other partners (NGOs/private sector):
Comments from UNDP were received and incorporated into the document.

10. Additional Information

Annex 1. Key Performance Indicators/Log Frame Matrix

Outcome / Impact Indicators:

Indicator/Matrix	Projected in last PSR[1]	Actual/Latest Estimate
No discernible decline in core area forest and habitat cover from baseline.	No discernible decline.	No decline from baseline was the target so it was not entirely achieved but core areas have remained intact. Multitemporal analysis indicated that deforestation in the Patuca, Tawahka and Rus-Rus reserves were of the order of 0.81% annually which contrasts with the national average of 1.21%
Decline in corridor gene flow of indicator species. This indicator was eliminated in July 2004 as it is unmeasurable and not a realistic indicator.		

Output Indicators:

Indicator/Matrix	Projected in last PSR[1]	Actual/Latest Estimate
Institutional Capacity: Number of management plans that reflect consensus built at national, regional, and local levels around the concept of core and buffer zones (11 plans by year 3).	Eleven plans	PAD (p. 112) projected 4 major management plans and 7 minor plans. 6 plans have been prepared and approved under project, covering about 790,000 ha. Plans for the Mosquitia were not prepared as instead the project funded a land tenure study.
(2) The Department of Protected Areas and Wildlife (Departamento de Areas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre, DAPVS) is better able to implement management plans.	Increase from the baseline, to be subjectively measured.	DAPVS received training and had adequate staff. However, with AFE-COHDEFOR's drastic staff reduction, this department now has minimal capacity to implement management plans. However, the project successfully invested in management capacity at the local level.
Area demarcated with the participation of communities (demarcation of 50 km of core areas by year 2 and at least 75 km annually thereafter) (350 km total)	350 km	468 km demarcated in a participatory manner.
Key Protected Areas: Physical presence of infrastructure and equipment in place and maintained (by year 3).	In place and maintained.	The bulk of planned infrastructure was built: 12 buildings (4 visitor centers, 7 smaller park buildings, 1 house for technical staff) plus remodelling of 4 park offices and construction of park gates are in place. Construction in Olancho and La Mosquitia were not feasible due to lack of counterpart funds.
(3) Number of communities actively involved in subproject preparation and implementation (increase from baseline).	Increase from the baseline to 50 communities.	During the life of the project, 34 sub-projects (representing $1.2 million) were carried out in 115 communities enabling establishment of 14 sustainable micro-enterprises benefiting most of these communities. This was more than double the 50 communities envisioned.
Natural Resource Management: Increased knowledge and adoption of biodiversity-friendly land use alternatives by communities in the buffer zones (# of individuals, increase from baseline).	Increase from the baseline. Estimated in July 2004 to be 100.	Between 2003 and 2004, 24 sub projects were undertaken benefiting 2,562 families and whose activities responded to food security in poor communities while incorporating conservation measures which

		generated a positive attitude towards natural resource management.
Natural Resource management: Increase in the number of beneficiaries in buffer zones that take an active role in protected areas management (increase from baseline).	Increase from baseline. Value still to be defined in July 2004.	The sub-projects were a window for the project to work with communities in the buffer zones. These effectively contributed to the creation of social capital, strategic alliances and new infrastructure.
Natural Resource Management: Number of projects supported by the fund with benign land use (increase from baseline).	20	While many of the 34 sub-projects dealt with the critical needs of food security, they also were imbued with conservation and natural resource management practices that improved land use.
Monitoring Component: Establishment of database by 1998 and installation of computers in four regional offices and the central office by year 2.	Functioning of database and computers being used regionally for monitoring purposes.	The software to run the database was not put into place until early 2005 and therefore the computers in the regions, while installed, did not have access to the data generated throughout the project.
Monitoring Component: Number of local participants involved in monitoring activities (increase from baseline).	Increase from baseline. A more precise value to be determined (July 2004).	104 park rangers and NGO personnel were trained for monitoring. Unfortunately, 90% of these rangers contracts were not renewed because of fiscal constraints.

[1] End of project

Annex 2. Project Costs and Financing

Project Cost by Component (in US$ million equivalent)

Component	Appraisal Estimate US$ million	Actual/Latest Estimate US$ million	Percentage of Appraisal
1. Strengthening of DAPVS & Local Capacity for Protected Areas Management	2.60	3.80	170
2. Management of Globally Important Protected Areas	4.60	2.30	55
3. Improving Natural Resource Management in Buffer Zones	1.90	1.50	81
4. Biological Monitoring	0.40	0.40	133
Total Baseline Cost	9.50	8.00	
Total Project Costs	9.50	8.00	
Total Financing Required	9.50	8.00	

Project Costs by Procurement Arrangements (Appraisal Estimate) (US$ million equivalent)

Expenditure Category	Procurement Method[1] ICB	NCB	Other[2]	N.B.F.	Total Cost
1. Works	0.50 (0.40)	1.70 (1.00)	0.20 (0.20)	0.00 (0.00)	2.40 (1.60)
2. Goods	0.20 (0.10)	0.50 (0.20)	0.80 (0.60)	0.00 (0.00)	1.50 (0.90)
3. Services	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	1.30 (1.20)	0.00 (0.00)	1.30 (1.20)
4. Training	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	0.80 (0.70)	0.00 (0.00)	0.80 (0.70)
5. Operating costs	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	1.60 (1.00)	0.00 (0.00)	1.60 (1.00)
6. Sub grants	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	1.90 (1.60)	0.00 (0.00)	1.90 (1.60)
Total	0.70 (0.50)	2.20 (1.20)	6.60 (5.30)	0.00 (0.00)	9.50 (7.00)

Goods category includes US$ 0.5 million for vehicles that were procured through the "other" method.

Project Costs by Procurement Arrangements (Actual/Latest Estimate) (US$ million equivalent)

Expenditure Category	Procurement Method[1] ICB	NCB	Other[2]	N.B.F.	Total Cost
1. Works	0.00 (0.00)	0.60 (0.40)	0.30 (0.20)	0.00 (0.00)	0.90 (0.60)
2. Goods	0.00 (0.00)	0.50 (0.30)	0.40 (0.30)	0.00 (0.00)	0.90 (0.60)
3. Services	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	3.00 (3.00)	0.00 (0.00)	3.00 (3.00)

4. Training	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	1.00 (1.00)	0.00 (0.00)	1.00 (1.00)
5. Operating costs	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	1.40 (1.00)	0.00 (0.00)	1.40 (1.00)
6. Sub grants	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	0.80 (0.60)	0.00 (0.00)	0.80 (0.60)
Total	0.00 (0.00)	1.10 (0.70)	6.90 (6.10)	0.00 (0.00)	8.00 (6.80)

Goods category includes US$ 0.2 million for vehicles that were procured through the "NCB" method.

[1/] Figures in parenthesis are the amounts to be financed by the Bank Loan. All costs include contingencies.

[2/] Includes civil works and goods to be procured through national shopping, consulting services, services of contracted staff of the project management office, training, technical assistance services, and incremental operating costs related to (i) managing the project, and (ii) re-lending project funds to local government units.

Project Financing by Component (in US$ million equivalent)

Component	Appraisal Estimate			Actual/Latest Estimate			Percentage of Appraisal		
	Bank	Govt.	CoF.	Bank	Govt.	CoF.	Bank	Govt.	CoF.
1. Strengthening of DAPVS & Local Capacity for Protected Areas Management	2.00	0.60	0.00	3.40	0.40	0.00	170.0	66.7	0.0
2. Management of Globally Important Protected Areas	3.10	1.30	0.00	1.70	0.60	0.00	54.8	46.2	0.0
3. Improving Natural Resource Management in Buffer Zones	1.60	0.20	0.30	1.30	0.00	0.20	81.3	0.0	66.7
4. Biological Monitoring	0.30	0.10	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	133.3	0.0	0.0
Total	7.00	2.20	0.30	6.80	1.00	0.20	97.1	45.5	66.7

Annex 3. Economic Costs and Benefits

N/A

Annex 4. Bank Inputs

(a) Missions:

Stage of Project Cycle	No. of Persons and Specialty (e.g. 2 Economists, 1 FMS, etc.)		Performance Rating	
Month/Year	Count	Specialty	Implementation Progress	Development Objective
Identification/Preparation				
02/19/96	*2*	TASK MANAGER (1), CONSULTANT (1)		
03/18/96	*1*	CONSULTANT (1)		
4/23/96	*2*	BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST (1), CONSULTANT (1)		
8/26/96	*1*	INDIGENOUS SPECIALIST (1)		
1/6/97	*6*	TASK MANAGER (1), BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST (1), PROJECT SPECIALIST (1), INDIGENOUS SPECIALIST (1) CONSULTANTS (2)		
3/13/97	*8*	TASK MANAGER (1), BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST (1), PROJECT SPECIALIST (1), INDIGENOUS SPECIALIST (1), NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST (1), GENDER SPECIALIST (1), CONSULTANT (2)		
Appraisal/Negotiation				
05/29/97	*6*	TASK MANAGER (1), BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST (1), PARKS SPECIALIST (1), SOCIOLOGIST (1), PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST (1), LAWYER (1)		
11/97	*2*	BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST (1), SOCIOLOGIST (1)	HS	HS
Supervision				
02 & 03/1998	*1*	BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST (1)	S	S
05/1998	*2*	BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST (1), SOCIOLOGIST (1)	S	S
10/1998	*2*	BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST (1), INDIGENOUS SPECIALIST (1)	S	S
12/11/1998	*6*	TASK MANAGER (1); UNDP REPRESENTATIVE (1); PROTECTED AREAS EXPERT (1); INDIGENOUS EXPERT (1); TASK MANAGER (1); FINANCIAL MGMT. (1)	S	S

01/1999	*3*	TASK MANAGER (1), BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST (1), FINANCIAL SPECIALIST (1)	S	S
03/1999	*5*	TASK MANAGER (1), BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST (1), OPERATIONS SPECIALIST (1), LAND TENURE SPECIALIST (1), INDIGENOUS SPECIALIST (1)	S	S
06/25/1999	*5*	TASK MANAGER (1), BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST (1), INDIGENOUS SPECIALIST (1), OPERATIONS SPECIALIST (1), FINANCIAL SPECIALIST (1)	U	S
01/17/2000	*4*	BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST (1); NRM ECONOMIST (1); GENDER SPECIALIST (1)	S	S
07/19/2000	*6*	TASK MANAGER (1), BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST (1), OPERATIONS SPECIALIST (1), INDIGENOUS SPECIALIST (1), FORESTER (1), NRM ECONOMIST (1)	U	S
02/06/2001	*1*	BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST (1)	S	S
02/06/2001	*3*	TASK MANAGER (1); INDIG. SPECIALIST (1); FINANCIAL MGMT. (1)	U	S
10/2001 MTR	*3*	TASK MANAGER (1), BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST (1), FINANCIAL/ PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST (1)	S	S
02/2002	*1*	TASK MANAGER (1)	S	S
04/19/2002	*1*	TASK MANAGER (1)	S	S
10/2002	*2*	TASK MANAGER (1), INDIGENOUS SPECIALIST (1)	S	S
02/22/2003	*1*	TASK MANAGER (1);	S	S
02/22/2003	*4*	TASK MANAGER (1); SUBPROJECTS (1); INDIG. SPECIALIST (1); SUPERVISION (1)	S	S
08/2003	*2*	TASK MANAGER (1), AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST (1)	S	S
11/2003	*2*	TASK MANAGER (1), SUBPROJECTS SPECIALIST (1)	S	S
03/25/2004	*2*	TASK MANAGER (1); INDIG. SPECIALIST (1)	S	S

	03/25/2004	*1*	TASK MANAGER (1)	S	S
	06/2004	*1*	TASK MANAGER (1)	S	S
	07/2004	*1*	TASK MANAGER (1)	S	S
	09/2004	*2*	TASK MANAGER (1), INSTITUTIONAL SPECIALIST (1)	S	S
	02/2005	*1*	TASK MANAGER (1)	S	S
	04/2005	*1*	SUBPROJECTS SPECIALIST (1)	S	S
ICR					
	06/2005	*2*	TASK MANAGER (1), INDIGENOUS SPECIALIST (1), ICR SPECIALIST (1)	S	S
	10/2005	*1*	TASK MANAGER (1)	S	S

(b) Staff:

Stage of Project Cycle	Actual/Latest Estimate	
	No. Staff weeks	US$ ('000)
Identification/Preparation	71.9	129.00
Appraisal/Negotiation	5.7	14.20
Supervision	127.3	374.80
ICR	1.5	5.50
Total	206.4	523.50

Annex 5. Ratings for Achievement of Objectives/Outputs of Components

(H=High, SU=Substantial, M=Modest, N=Negligible, NA=Not Applicable)

	Rating
☒ *Macro policies*	○ *H* ○ *SU* ○ *M* ○ *N* ● *NA*
☒ *Sector Policies*	○ *H* ○ *SU* ○ *M* ● *N* ○ *NA*
☒ *Physical*	○ *H* ● *SU* ○ *M* ○ *N* ○ *NA*
☒ *Financial*	○ *H* ○ *SU* ○ *M* ○ *N* ● *NA*
☒ *Institutional Development*	○ *H* ○ *SU* ● *M* ○ *N* ○ *NA*
☒ *Environmental*	○ *H* ● *SU* ○ *M* ○ *N* ○ *NA*
Social	
☒ *Poverty Reduction*	○ *H* ○ *SU* ● *M* ○ *N* ○ *NA*
☒ *Gender*	○ *H* ○ *SU* ● *M* ○ *N* ○ *NA*
☐ *Other (Please specify)*	○ *H* ○ *SU* ○ *M* ○ *N* ○ *NA*
☒ *Private sector development*	○ *H* ○ *SU* ● *M* ○ *N* ○ *NA*
☒ *Public sector management*	○ *H* ○ *SU* ○ *M* ● *N* ○ *NA*
☐ *Other (Please specify)*	○ *H* ○ *SU* ○ *M* ○ *N* ○ *NA*

Annex 6. Ratings of Bank and Borrower Performance

(HS=Highly Satisfactory, S=Satisfactory, U=Unsatisfactory, HU=Highly Unsatisfactory)

6.1 Bank performance	*Rating*			
☒ *Lending*	○ *HS*	● *S*	○ *U*	○ *HU*
☒ *Supervision*	○ *HS*	● *S*	○ *U*	○ *HU*
☒ *Overall*	○ *HS*	● *S*	○ *U*	○ *HU*

6.2 Borrower performance	*Rating*			
☒ *Preparation*	○ *HS*	● *S*	○ *U*	○ *HU*
☒ *Government implementation performance*	○ *HS*	○ *S*	● *U*	○ *HU*
☒ *Implementation agency performance*	○ *HS*	● *S*	○ *U*	○ *HU*
☒ *Overall*	○ *HS*	● *S*	○ *U*	○ *HU*

Despite faltering and inconsistent government implementation, the project was able to deliver significant results that made a lasting impact on protected areas management in Honduras. Overall, the Borrower's performance is rated as Satisfactory.

Annex 7. List of Supporting Documents

1. PROBAP-Project Appraisal Document – Biodiversity in Priority Areas, September 11, 1997
2. Global Environment Facility Trust Fund Grant Agreement, December 19, 1997.
3. Global Environment Facility Trust Fund Grant Agreement - Amendment, June 15,1999.
4. GEF Project Document – Honduras – Biodiversity in Priority Areas Project. Report No. 16859 HO. September 1997.
5. Tripartite Commissions progress reports (GOH, UNDP, WB), 13 May, 2005 and 28 June, 2005.
6. PAAR – Project Appraisal Document – Rural Land Management Project, February 28, 1997.
7. PAAR – Implementation Completion Report – Rural Land Management Project, October 14, 2004.
8. Rivas, Carlos. Informe Final. Pre-Evaluación Medio Termino PROBAP. September, 2001.
9. Quality of Supervision Assessment (QSA5), September 18, 2002. GEF HN-Biodiversity Conservation
10. AFE-COHDEFOR/DAPVS. Junio 2005. Informe Final – Proyecto Biodiversidad en Áreas Protegidas Prioritarias.
11. Evaluación Final del PROBAP – Proyecto Biodiversidad en Áreas Protegidas Prioritarias.
12. Supervision Mission Aide Memoires and PSRs
13. Diamond, N., G. Platais, N. Nkrumah, A. Isaac, 2002. Participatory Conservation Principles for Practitioners. World Bank, Environment Department, Washington, DC.
14. PROBAP. 2005. Recopilación de Documentos y Videos de Areas Protegidas y Monitoreo. (CD and DVD set with collection of Project documents).

Annex 8. Borrower's Summary ICR

Biodiversity in Priority Protected Areas Project

Presentation

Protected areas constitute an important segment of our country's conservation sector. They contribute significant economic, social, and environmental goods and services to society.

Although nearly 24% of the country's territory has been considered a protected area, much of it has continued to deteriorate systematically, with a high level of acceleration in recent decades. This is mainly due to the advance of the agricultural frontier, forest fires, irrational extraction of forest products, and poor natural resources management practices in general.

In order to reduce these problems and strengthen the National System of Protected Areas (SINAPH), the Biodiversity in Priority Areas Project (PROBAP) was executed from October 1998 to June 2005. The project was co-executed by the State Forestry Administration (COHDEFOR) as the national agency, with UNDP and the World Bank as collaborators. The project received financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Government of Honduras. Throughout its execution the project made considerable efforts to reverse the process of destruction in the principal protected areas that form the Honduran portion of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (CBM).

The protected areas assisted by PROBAP are priorities within the context of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (CBM), and as a whole total 1.2 million hectares of large rainforests, pine forests, wetlands, etc., considered the country's largest biodiversity reserves.

Throughout the forest regions of Olancho, Atlántida, and La Mosquitia and with the technical and financial support of PROBAP, COHDEFOR carried out the following actions: protection, demarcation, surveillance, participatory planning and management; construction of and equipment for tourism and management infrastructure; training; institutional strengthening; and biological monitoring. Furthermore, the project financed productive projects that benefited 115 ethnic and Ladino communities located in the buffer zone of priority protected areas.

In addition, the project carried out efforts to strengthen SINAPH, supporting the corresponding institutions in the formulation of policies, regulations, technical standards, and training, and generally contributing to create proper technical, legal, and political conditions for the system's functional development.

Although the project achieved significant impacts and results in its seven years of execution, major efforts are still needed to achieve SINAPH's sustainability, for which concerted efforts are required in close coordination with relevant stakeholders. This final report reflects the effort and principal results achieved by the project in terms of SINAPH's sustainability. We hope that other national and international collaborators and institutions will contribute to this effort and that our experiences will be valid in meeting the project's objectives.

Project description

In accordance with the GEF Operational Program, the project's overall objective is to contribute to the integrity of the Honduran section of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, through better conservation of biodiversity in clusters *(zonas núcleo)* and sustainable use of natural resources in buffer zones. This will be achieved through: (a) improved institutional capacity for protected area management; b) better protection of

selected areas; (c) support for more friendly use of natural resources in buffer zones; and (d) strengthening of the biological monitoring capacity at national level.

The project began in September of 1998 and ended on June 30, 2005. The original financing totaled US$9.5 million, of which US$7.0 million was a donation from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), US$2.2 million was from the Government of Honduras, and US$0.3 million came from beneficiaries. PROBAP is part of a larger biodiversity conservation program in Honduras, and was associated with the Rural Areas Administration Project (PAAR) which was a World Bank loan to the Government of Honduras.

The State Forestry Administration (COHDEFOR), through the Department of Protected Areas and Wildlife (DAPVS), is responsible for project execution. A Project Coordination Unit was established. It is responsible for proper technical execution of the project, financial and administrative management, coordination, monitoring of activities, etc. In addition, operational centers were established in La Mosquitia, Olancho, and La Ceiba. Many of the project's investments and interventions were decentralized and executed by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and grassroots organizations that co-managed protected areas, joint efforts (*mancomunidad*) by municipalities, consulting firms, individual consultants, etc.

In general, the project is aimed at the conservation and management of biodiversity in priority protected areas, with the sustainable and equitable use of the benefits derived from them, by means of four components: (a) strengthening of DAPVS and of local capacity for protected area management; (b) management of globally important priority areas; (c) improvement in the management of natural resources in buffer zones; and (d) biological monitoring.

The project's geographic area is estimated at about 1.2 million hectares and includes 11 protected areas in 3 regions: (a) Caribbean Region: Pico Bonito National Park, Cuero and Salado Wildlife Refuge, Punta Izopo National Park, Jeannette Kawas National Park and Texiguat Wildlife Refuge; (b) La Mosquitia Region: Laguna de Caratasca, Rus Rus, Warunta, and Mocorón (all proposed areas); and (c) Olancho Region: Patuca National Park and Tawahka Asagni Reserve. These areas have been prioritized at national and international levels due to their rich biodiversity, suitable degree of conservation, and their wide variety of ecosystems, including wetlands, rainforests, pine forests, and cloud forests.

Description of project setting.

Due to its geographic location, Honduras is a country with rich biodiversity and large areas of intact natural forests. The project covers approximately 1.5 million hectares of rainforests, wetlands, pine forests, cloud forests, etc., which are distributed among 11 protected areas under relatively intact conditions. Consequently, this is the area where most of the Honduran section of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor is located.

With the exception of the Atlántida region where there is greater economic development and whose protected areas have a strong potential for tourism, the rest of the project area is somewhat inaccessible and lacks institutional presence. Communities, most of which are of ethnic origin (Miskito, Tawahka, and Garífuna), are poor with few opportunities for access to education, land, credit, technical assistance, etc. They practice subsistence agriculture; fishing and hunting are also very important. This aspect clearly identifies the importance of natural resources for their survival.

Despite their economic potential, protected areas have contributed little to poverty reduction and the country's development. Moreover, deforestation (slash and burn) is acknowledged to be one of the greatest environmental problems, causing the loss of forest cover at a steady rate of about 100,000 ha/year in the past decade. Honduran Forestry Agenda, 2004. The Nacional Forestry Program

In terms of institutional aspects, PROBAP found limited support in COHDEFOR, the national institution whose mandate is to manage protected areas. The national crisis in the forestry sector gave rise to a framework of institutional limitations and obstacles with regard to regulatory and control capacity, as well as limitations on counterpart financing, technical support, and monitoring. Finally, the restructuring of AFE-COHDEFOR (2004) and the anticipated changes in the new legal proposal (Forestry Law, Protected Areas and Wildlife), which is under discussion in the National Congress, created a transition phase that has drastically reduced the availability of DAPVS's human resources and budget.

In addition, at its start-up the project was affected by various natural phenomena, including Hurricane Mitch in 1998, which made it necessary to allocate funds ($200,000) and logistics to emergency projects in the area of influence.

Although substantial changes have been noted in the management focus and there is a better capacity among stakeholders, with concrete actions on the ground, the factors presented previously, many of which were beyond the project's control, limited to a certain extent the proper execution of the project.

Compliance with project objectives

In country terms, PROBAP's actions were considered significant because the project had an influence on three major regions of the country: Atlántida, La Mosquitia, and Olancho, including 4 departments and 16 municipalities. In addition the project made individual investments in 12 protected areas of global importance and benefited a broad range of stakeholders at local, regional, and national levels. The land area assisted by PROBAP corresponds to 38% of SINAPH.

It is important to mention that the project's objectives and actions are consistent with the Poverty Reduction Strategy (ERP) which constitutes one of Honduras' most important national planning and management instruments. Compliance with project objectives is presented below.

Objective of the Country Assistance Strategy: Sustainable management of natural resources and poverty alleviation.

Key indicator: Protected areas are adequately managed and contribute to socioeconomic development through the development of environmental goods and services for local communities.
Impacts:
(a) The project improved protection, established management measures, and carried out studies in 12 priority protected areas covering a total of 1.2 million hectares, which represent 38% of the SINAPH total; (b) the project placed under effective management 6 priority protected areas covering a total of 793,289.7 has; (c) these six protected areas contribute to local economic development through the active incorporation of nearly 115 communities (2562 families); (d) establishment of cooperation networks that work together on the protection and sustainable use of biological corridors.

Objective of the GEF Operational Program: Conservation of biodiversity of global importance in the Honduran portions of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC) through the sustainable use of its components, just and equitable distribution of its benefits, halting the decrease in genetic material.

Key indicator: Creation of a corridor consisting of continuous blocks of complementary conservation and sustainable use, taking into account the dynamic needs and interests of stakeholders.
Impacts:
a) Establishment of the Caribbean Biological Corridor and support for the establishment of the Corazón Biological Corridor (binational with Nicaragua); (b) establishment of two Cooperation Networks to work together on the protection and sustainable use of the Caribbean biological corridors, in Atlántida, and in the Corazón Transboundary Reserve in Olancho; (c) deforestation rates in the Patuca, Tawahka, and Rus Rus Reserves have remained steady at around 0.81% per year (5,268 has), in contrast to the national rate of 1.2% per year (Rivera 1998). Deforestation fronts are basically located in the buffer zone, in highly inaccessible sectors or areas.

Project Development Objective: To put in place measures to ensure the long-term conservation of the MBC in important areas.
Impacts:
a) Definition of a Strategic Plan for SINAPH, establishing short-, medium-, and long-term measures and a concrete policy for the management of protected areas; (b) definition of a minimum, biologically viable, on-site conservation system that is representative of existing biodiversity and is cost effective; and (c) definition of the Honduran Fund for Protected Areas (FHAP) as the financial instrument to carry out the environmental mandate of protected area conservation and to contribute to poverty reduction in Honduras.

Project results by component:

Institutional Strengthening Component

In its institutional aspects the project was aimed at strengthening the various stakeholders in the management of protected areas, at local, regional, and national levels. It included grassroots organizations, nongovernmental organizations co-managing protected areas, local governments, and government institutions.

The following impacts are highlighted under this component:

- Support to the political and institutional framework of SINAPH, especially of the Department of Protected Areas and Wildlife and of the National Council on Protected Areas (CONAPH).
- Greater capacity of the principal actors involved to manage protected areas, prepare and implement management plans, prepare and implement technical and administrative regulations, and provide infrastructure and equipment to NGOs and AFE-COHDEFOR (Olancho, Atlántida, La Mosquitia offices).
- Under the emerging training plan, 6,244 hours/person of training were provided, equivalent to 866 people from co-managing NGOs, DAPVS, and other actors, thus contributing to an improvement in the capacity of organizations involved to manage priority protected areas.

Component: Management of Protected Areas of Global Importance

In country terms, PROBAP's actions were significant inasmuch as its geographic scope is estimated at 1.2 million hectares, including 12 protected areas of global importance, in an area of influence consisting of 4 departments and 16 municipalities. The area served by PROBAP corresponds to 38% of the SINAPH total.

The principal impacts are described below:

- Establishment of an on-site, biologically viable Minimum Conservation System that is representative of the existing biodiversity, at an effective cost.
- 6 Management Plans in an equal number of protected areas covering 793,289.7 has. (25% of the SINAPH total).

- 468 kilometers of physical delimitation and demarcation of key protected areas in the most critical sections.
- Construction of 3 visitors' centers, 1 environmental training center, and 7 information centers equipped and operating in the Pico Bonito, Cuero and Salado, and Jeannette Kawas priority areas.
- A network of nongovernmental and grassroots organizations with a greater execution capacity, highly qualified technical staff, and a commitment to the conservation of protected areas under their responsibility.
- The emergence of a new generation of technicians and para-technicians trained in a wide range of conservation issues is highly relevant not only for the project but for the entire conservation sector in Honduras.

Component: Management of Natural Resources in Buffer Zones

The project had a significant impact on the management of buffer zones due to its ability to change the attitudes of various local-level stakeholders and social groups located within or adjacent to protected areas of priority importance and at national scale. This resulted in greater participation by local communities in management activities and the sustainable use of natural resources. It is important to mention that many of the communities addressed by the project are located in somewhat inaccessible areas, with high levels of poverty and little institutional presence.

The major impacts are described below:

- 115 rural communities (2,562 families) located in highly disadvantaged areas were benefited with 34 subprojects totaling US$1.2 million.
- 12 grassroots organizations entered into a process of institutional strengthening with regard to organizational, technical, leadership, accounting, and administrative aspects.
- Links were established with various counterpart agencies, with a wide variety and level of presence on the ground, management experience and capacity, and willingness to monitor local community initiatives, among other aspects. The direct participation of most of Honduras' nongovernmental environmental organizations allowed the project to take a relevant position in the context of institutional and environment discussions and management at national and regional levels.
- The subprojects contributed to the creation of social capital, strategic alliances, and new structures in the zone.
- One outcome of particular importance is the preparation of the proposed Buffer Zone Management Strategy.
- The study entitled "*Diagnostic of Land Tenure and Status in Garífuna and Miskito Communities*" defined the problem of land tenure in Garífuna and Miskito communities and identified community mechanisms for land-related conflict resolution.
- The most significant aspect stemming from project actions under this component is that, in a context of extreme poverty and social exclusion, the conservation of protected areas and their buffer zones may contribute to the comprehensive improvement of the population's quality of life, ensuring the achievement of higher levels of long-term support and monitoring.

Biological Monitoring Component

The major impact expected under this component is the establishment of a biological monitoring system to make it possible to determine major changes in the status of biodiversity in the project's priority protected areas.

The principal impacts are described below:

- A monitoring system designed by PROBAP has been accepted by DAPVS and is being carried out in 19 of the 38 priority protected areas.

- In its restructuring proposal, AFE-COHDEFOR has officially approved the creation of a Monitoring Unit within DAPVS.
- A computerized comparative database with approximately 10,000 entries on protected areas, which may be used to perform a series of statistical analyses.
- There is a better understanding of the status of conservation and biodiversity in priority protected areas, because a series of studies and analyses have been performed in the protected areas involved.
- Data collection and partial analyses were accompanied by 37 reconnaissance overflights (nearly 70 hours of flight) and 15 land trips.
- 32 organizations participated directly or indirectly in activities related to biological monitoring. It is important to note that various international researchers understand and utilize the results generated by the biological monitoring and some are providing new information.
- 104 resource wardens were trained in the execution of biological monitoring activities.

Project Administration

The administrative unit provides support to the technical activities being carried out. It oversees compliance with the administrative procedures established in the Grant Agreement, keeps proper records of project operations, and monitors all matters related to procurement, disbursement, budget execution, etc.

Its principal results are as follows:

- An accounting system was implemented. This allowed the proper recording of all project operations.
- It complied, to the satisfaction of the World Bank and UNDP, with all conditions imposed in the Midterm Review that was carried out in 2001.
- It justified 98% of questionable expenditures found in the 1999, 2000, and 2001 audits.
- In the 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005 audits, no questionable expenditures were found.
- The project's financial execution was US$8.02 million, of which US$6.8 million correspond to the grant (97% executed).

Principal factors that influenced project execution

Positive factors:

The biological wealth and the large areas of natural forest contained in the 12 protected areas in which the project operates have allowed various types of institutions to pay greater attention to the region's problems. As a result, other international agencies such as UNESCO, the Nature Conservancy (TNC), the European Union, USAID, and ACDI have assigned priority to this zone and have proposed short- and medium-term actions, in addition to and in support of the actions undertaken by the PROBAP Project. One example is the initiative of the Corazón Transboundary Biosphere Reserve of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, for which the GEF is proposing a project to conserve the area. On the Caribbean coast, two projects have served as important partners with PROBAP: the REHDES-NEPHENTES Sustainable Tourism Project and the Ministry of Tourism's World Bank–financed Sustainable Coastal Tourism Project.

The strong ecotourism potential of Caribbean protected areas (Pico Bonito, Cuero and Salado, Jeannette Kawas, Punta Izopo, among others) allowed the Central Government, through the Ministry of Tourism, to prioritize investments in these protected areas. This situation facilitated PROBAP's investments in the construction of ecotourism and management infrastructure, by which important synergies were achieved with the private tourism sector in the region and with the nongovernmental organizations that are co-managing the protected areas.

The existence of nongovernmental and grassroots organizations that are managing protected areas or

working on buffer zone development processes created a favorable environment for project actions. PROBAP found that these organizations were excellent partners in the execution of many of the actions executed by the project and that they facilitated the expected impact. This situation was more evident in the Caribbean region where there is a greater tradition of work by environmental NGOs that have co-management agreements with COHDEFOR.

The presence of indigenous peoples settled in the project areas, particularly the Miskito and Tawahka, who have a tradition of natural resources conservation, facilitated field activities. Important synergies were achieved with them in matters of conservation and sustainable development.

Negative factors:

In terms of institutional aspects, PROBAP found limited support in COHDEFOR, the national institution whose mandate is to manage protected areas. The national crisis in the forestry sector gave rise to a framework of institutional limitations and obstacles. For example:

- The lack of timely availability of counterpart resources caused the World Bank and UNDP to freeze grant funds, making it necessary to suspend contracts or scheduled procurement until this situation was resolved. This situation produced gaps in the execution of the POA and the procurement plan during the last two years of the project.
- The strong restructuring which COHDEFOR underwent in 2004, when nearly 50% of its staff was fired, limited the institution's regulatory and control capacity as well as technical support and monitoring in field work, and forced the project to concentrate more of its own efforts on achieving the objectives.
- COHDEFOR's priorities are aimed at forest management and the uses of pine and broadleaf (latifoliate) forests. This requires most of the institution's scarce economic and human resources, relegating protected area and wildlife activities to a somewhat lower level of importance.

During the first two and a half years following the project's launch, a series of administrative and technical problems were clearly identified in the World Bank's 2001 Midterm Review. This situation caused the World Bank and UNDP to establish a series of conditions that COHDEFOR would need to fulfill in order to continue with normal project execution. Compliance with these conditions caused the UCP to concentrate greater efforts the following year on resolving the problems found, rather than on project execution per se.

With the exception of the Atlántida region where there is greater economic development and whose protected areas have a strong potential for tourism, the rest of the project area is somewhat inaccessible and lacks institutional presence. Communities, most of which are of ethnic origin (Miskito, Tawahka, and Garífuna), are poor with few opportunities for access to education, land, credit, technical assistance, etc. They practice subsistence agriculture; fishing and hunting are also very important. This aspect clearly identifies the importance of natural resources for their survival.

Despite their economic potential, protected areas have contributed little to poverty reduction and the country's development. Moreover, deforestation (slash and burn) is acknowledged to be one of the greatest environmental problems, causing the loss of forest cover at a steady rate of about 100,000 ha/year in the past decade. Areas of project intervention, especially Patuca and Tawahka, are located on more active colonization fronts. In the Patuca region, the problem has become alarming and to a large extent is provoked by inadequate policies on land tenure and the relocation of communities.

In addition, at its start-up the project was affected by various natural phenomena, including Hurricane

Mitch in 1998, which made it necessary to allocate funds ($200,000) and logistics to emergency projects in the area of influence.

Sustainability of project actions

The project document states that sustainability will be promoted through:

- Improvement of the skills of local and national institutions in charge of managing protected areas and natural resources.
- Support for SINAPH's self-financing by means of a financial mechanism that ensures the sustainability of protected areas.
- Increase in public support for protected areas and participation in their management, working closely with stakeholders.
- Institutional strengthening of SINAPH.
- Investments that promote better management of protected areas.

Although the project addressed all the above issues, there are several elements that place in doubt the sustainability of project actions. The most important of these is the fact that the forestry sector has been subjected to systematic instability which has not allowed the institution to assign due relevance to the protected areas. Therefore, the Department of Protected Areas and Wildlife (DAPVS) operates at very minimum capacity and has not developed the skills to internalize all of PROBAP's contributions.

In addition, the lengthy approval process of the proposed new Forestry Law dealing with Protected Areas and Wildlife has created uncertainty and many expectations about the institutional framework. According to consultations and the opinions of many specialists in the forestry and conservation sector, this decreases the possibilities for any project's sustainability. It is important to mention that many initiatives are awaiting a decision in this regard to be able to get underway.

In light of the above and in terms of the results of the project's progress evaluation and final assessment, the approval of the proposed Forestry Law on Protected Areas and Wildlife could increase the likelihood of sustainability for actions generated by the project, since the strengthening of the institutional framework and the allocation of greater financial resources are proposed.

However, during its execution the project generated a number of synergies with other projects and collaborating agencies in order to create conditions of sustainability so that project–generated mechanisms and processes can be monitored. These alliances should be continued and strengthened by DAPVS to ensure support after the project's conclusion.

The project supported the initiative of the Protected Areas Fund, the SINAPH Strategic Plan, the Co-Management Policy, and a Minimum System of On-Site Conservation. These are key, urgent aspects and their application will make it possible to ensure the long-term conservation of protected areas. However, their implementation is subject to approval by high-level government authorities dealing with natural resources. Once approved and put into practice, these mechanisms may create an important synergy among government institutions, NGOs, grassroots organizations, local governments, and international cooperation agencies, and facilitate available resources in benefit of protected areas.

Conclusions

- The analysis of project progress, in terms of key indicates, shows that the expected results have been generated, creating the bases for greater effectiveness of the SINAPH in general, and of stakeholders associated with PROBAP's areas of influence, in particular. Moreover, it made a significant contribution to the indicators proposed in the Poverty Reduction Strategy (ERP).
- The results and lessons learned and generated by PROBAP have made a strategic contribution to the national targets contemplated in the Forests and Biodiversity Subprogram of the National Forestry Program (PRONAFOR), such as:
- Consolidating SINAPH's prioritized areas with basic instruments: management plans, public use plans, demarcations, basic infrastructure, surveillance, and a management monitoring system.
- Establishing regional protected areas systems as a mechanism to provide non-prioritized protected areas with basic management instruments.
- Supporting the development of ecotourism clusters in the protected areas proposed in the National Ecotourism Strategy, taking into consideration the development of ethnic groups.
- Making compatible the policies and regulations for the management of public protected areas.
- Establishing the regulations for biodiversity conservation on private lands.
- Consolidating the authorities in charge of participation and coordination at national, regional, and local levels for the SINAPH.
- Establishing the National Fund for Protected Area Management.
- Periodically reviewing the criteria for organizing areas within the SINAPH.
- However, some results were only achieved around the second half of the project (2002–2005). This has generated greater demands for consolidating the processes, in order to ensure the impact's sustainability, especially with regard to infrastructure subprojects and works.
- Actions related to the strengthening of the DAPVS in the final stage of the project have been aimed at defining the new legal framework, since this is COHDEFOR's only project that deals with the strengthening of the SINAPH in general. However, some of these actions have not become effective because this framework has not yet been defined. It is worthwhile to mention that the budget allocated for this purpose represents a high percentage.
- Some processes related to protected area management (implementation of management plans, operational plans, and biological monitoring) have not been fully assumed by DAPVS and its co-management partners, due in part to the weakness of the State Forestry Administration resulting from a very lengthy transition period, but also because the NGOs lack a strategy to implement them. This gap would require an additional NGO monitoring effort and may not be sustainably supplied solely by the hiring of resource wardens, as contemplated in the 2004–2005 POA.
- With regard to subprojects, the grassroots organizations supported by the project are playing an active role in the management of protected areas. However, considering that the monitoring provided in some cases has been aimed more toward formulation than technical and organizational assistance, and due to the short duration of subprojects and various logistical limitations (distances between communities), the following situations have occurred:
- Technical gaps related to subproject implementation have remained, in terms of the demonstration of biodiversity-friendly land use alternatives.
- Several organizations, particularly in the Patuca sector, which came into being as a result of the subprojects, merit a strong process of organizational strengthening; otherwise they run the risk of dissolving.

Annex 9. Natural Resource Management in Buffer zones financed through the Community Projects Fund

The sub-projects were distributed as follows:

PROBAP Region	Number of subprojects executed	Financing in Lempiras	Percentage
Olancho	11	6,117,691	50.9
Atlántida	5	2,561,687	21.3
La Mosquitia	6	3,330,317	27.8
TOTAL	22	12,009,695	100

Details of subprojects:

Project name	Participating Communities	Region	Number of Families	Characterization of participants
Proyecto de desarrollo de las mancomunidades de Los Encuentros, Río Blanco, Catacamas	Los Encuentros, Eben Ezer, Sinaí, Santa Marta, Naranjito, Samaria, Jardines	Olancho	390	Ladinos
Proyecto de Desarrollo de la Región de Yamales Medio Trojes-Sub-sector 2	La Suiza, Moriah, Villanueva, San Antonio, Santa Rosa No.1 Villa Nueva.	Olancho	155	Ladinos
Proyecto de Desarrollo de la Región de Yamales arriba Trojes Sub-sector 1	El Porvenir de Yamales, San Marquitos, Villa Santa, San Luis, Rancho Grande y El porvenir, Municipio de Trojes	Olancho	125	Ladinos
Proyecto de Conservación y Producción para el desarrollo de las comunidades del sector 1 de la zona del Patuca medio en la reserva de la biósfera de Biosfera Tawahka Asangni	Yapuwas, Kamakasna y Parawas	Olancho	96	Tawahka
Proyecto de conservación y producción para el desarrollo de las comunidades del sector No.2 de la zona del Patuca medio en la Reserva de Biosfera Tawahka Asangni	Krautara, Krausirpi	Olancho	170	Tawahka
Proyecto de conservación y producción para el desarrollo de las comunidades del sector No.1 de la zona Wampú Medio en la Reserva de Biosfera Tawahka Asangni	San José del Guano, Palmira de Río Frío, Nuevo Paraíso	Olancho	90	Ladinos
Proyecto de conservación y producción para el desarrollo de las comunidades del sector No.2 de la zona de Wampú Medio.	Villa Linda Wampú, San Isidro Wampú, Villa Progreso Wampú, Minas de Oro Payabila, Payabila.	Olancho	160	Ladinos
Fincas demostrativas	La Unión Capapán, Villa Linda, Las Flores, Santa Cruz, El Jilguero, Villanueva, Agua Caliente, Delicias de Cuyamel, Montaña Verde, La Esperanza	Olancho	15	Ladinos Tawahka
Uso eficiente de la tierra		Olancho	12	Ladinos Tawahka

	n.d.			
Plantas Medicinales	n.d.	Olancho	16	Ladinos y Tawahka
Manejo Productivo de cacao y especies menores	n.d.	Olancho	15	Ladinos y Tawahka
Fortalecimiento de la pesca artesanal cooperativista y disminución del impacto sobre la Laguna de los Micos.	Los Cerritos, Miami, Las Tusas, El Marion, Los Cocos, Tornabé y San Juan.	Atlántida	22	Ladinos
Cobijando al Mundo desde el Parque Nacional Pico Bonito	El Olvido, El Pital, La Ceiba	Atlántida	63	Ladinas
Proyecto de diversificación productiva y reducción de la pobreza en comunidades rurales de Cuero y Salado.	Boca Cerrada, Salado Barra, Barra del Cuero y Thompson/Rosita	Atlántida	180	Ladinos
Ecoturismo en Cuero y Salado		Atlántida	35	Ladinos y Garífunas.
Diversificación productiva y reducción de la pobreza en comunidades rurales de Punta Izopo	Hicaque	Atlántida	70	Ladinos
Mairin Nani Pawanka Wal	Sikia Auya	La Mosquitia	63	Miskitos
Pawanka Raya	Walpiakiakira	La Mosquitia	30	Miskitos
Proyecto de Desarrollo y Conservación Comunitaria Ahuasbila	Ahuasbila	La Mosquitia	280	Miskitos
Proyecto de Conservación y Manejo Integral de los bosques de Mocorón	Mocoron, Coop.Tenky Dawan	La Mosquitia	300	Miskitos
Proyecto de Desarrollo y Conservación Comunitaria Suhi	Suhi	La Mosquitia	120	Miskitos
Grupo de mujeres organizadas de Mocorón MOMANASTA (elaboración de artesanías)	Mocorón	La Mosquitia	55	Miskitos
Manejo de fauna silvestre (venados)*	Rus Rus	La Mosquitia	20	Miskitos y ladinos
Manejo de cultivos productivos (marañón) y su procesamiento artesanal.*	Cauquira	La Mosquitia	80	Ladinos y Misquitos

Nota: n.d. No datos disponibles.
Fuente: Documentos de sub-proyectos y Florez (2005).
* Estos subproyectos no se incluyen en el listado de Florez (2005)

Annex 10. Proposed transition strategy

Plan de Seguimiento a los procesos desarrollados por PROBAP.

PROCESOS / ACTIVIDADES	Unidad Responsable	Unidad de Medida	MESES				
1. Fondo de Áreas Protegidas.	DAPVS		**Ag**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
a. Coordinar con SERNA y participar activamente en la ejecución del plan de acción presentado por la consultoría.	GG/VS	Reuniones	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**
b. Participar en la reunión del CONAPH para la elección de la Asamblea General y del Consejo Asesor del FHAP.	GG/DAPVS	Asamblea		**X**			
c. Participar en la socialización y promoción del FHAP.	GG/DAPVS	Reuniones			**X**	**X**	**X**
d. Presentar el FHAP a funcionarios de COHDEFOR	DAPVS	Reuniones		**X**			
e. Mantener un diálogo permanente con funcionarios del Banco Mundial y otros cooperantes sobre el avance del proceso del FHAP.	GG/DAPVS	Correos, reuniones, informes	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**
2. Plan Estratégico del SINAPH.	DAPVS		**Ag**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
a. Socializar y promover el Plan Estratégico del SINAPH a lo interno de COHDEFOR	DAPVS	Reuniones	**X**	**X**	**X**		
b. . Promover la aprobación oficial del Plan Estratégico del SINAPH por parte de COHDEFOR.	GG/ UPEG/ DAPVS	Resolución Gerencial		**X**			
c. Coordinar con SERNA la aprobación del Plan Estratégico del SINAPH, por parte del CONAPH	GG/ DAPVS	Resolución			**X**		
d. Socializar y promover el Plan Estratégico del SINAPH a nivel nacional.	GG / DAPVS / CONAPH	Reuniones regionales			**X**	**X**	**X**
e. Promover a nivel de la cooperación internacional el Plan Estratégico del SINAPH y otras acciones iniciadas por PROBAP.	GG/ DAPVS/ CONAPH	Reunión				**X**	**X**
3. Regionalización del SINAPH.	DAPVS		**Ag**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
a. Socializar y promover la regionalización del SINAPH a lo interno de COHDEFOR.	DAPVS	Reuniones, Talleres	**X**	**X**	**X**		
b. Promover la aprobación oficial de la regionalización del SINAPH por parte de COHDEFOR.	GG/ DAPVS / UPEG	Resolución Gerencial		**X**			
c. Coordinar con SERNA la aprobación de la regionalización del SINAPH y definir las áreas prioritarias a apoyar.	GG/ DAPVS	Resolución CONAPH			**X**		
d. Socializar y promover la regionalización del SINAPH a nivel nacional.	GG/ DAPVS/ UPEG	Talleres, reuniones.			**X**	**X**	**X**
e. Promover a nivel de la cooperación internacional la regionalización del SINAPH.	GG / DAPVS	Reunión.				**X**	**X**
d. Coordinar con SERNA la creación de áreas	GG/DAPVS	Plan de trabajo			**X**	**X**	**X**

protegidas en la Mosquitia y otras áreas propuestas en el estudio de racionalización y definir un plan de trabajo para ello.							
4. Consolidación De Organizaciones de base.	DAPVS / DSSF		**Ag**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
a. Establecer contacto con organizaciones de base y ONG relacionadas y conocer situación actual.	DAPVS/ DSSF	Reuniones	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**
b. Promover las organizaciones de base y su plan estratégico.		Reuniones			**X**	**X**	**X**
c. Establecer contacto con otros proyectos para el seguimiento de las organizaciones de base y su plan de trabajo.	GG/ DAPVS / DSSF	Reuniones			**X**	**X**	**X**
d. Definir conjuntamente con las organizaciones de base un plan de apoyo a las mismas.	DAPVS/ DSSF	Plan de trabajo	**X**	**X**	**X**		
e. Mantener una base de datos de las organizaciones de base.	DSSF	Informe	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**
f. Gestionar la personería jurídica de las Organizaciones de Base que aun no lo tienen.	Depto. Legal.	Personería Jurídica.			**X**	**X**	**X**
5. Programa de monitoreo biológico.	DAPVS		**Ag**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
a. Promover la creación de la Unidad de Monitoreo Biológico en el DAPVS y la aprobación de todos los manuales.	GG/ DAPVS	Resolución Gerencial	**X**	**X**			
b. Promover el Programa de Monitoreo Biológico a nivel interno.	DAPVS	Reuniones	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	
c. Coordinar con SERNA (DIBIO y SINIA) el establecimiento de la base de datos en la página web.	GG/ DAPVS	Reuniones	**X**	**X**			
d. Coordinar con la Red Hondureña de Desarrollo Sostenible el establecimiento de la base de datos en la página web.	GG/ DAPVS	Reuniones	**X**	**X**			
e. Definir un plan de capacitación para el tema de monitoreo biológico tanto a nivel central como a nivel regional con las ONG co manejadoras de áreas protegidas.	DAPVS	Plan de capacitación		**X**	**X**		
f. Promover la base de datos de monitoreo biológico a nivel nacional.	GG / DAPVS	Reuniones	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**
g. Establecer y oficializar contactos con Universidades e investigadores nacionales e internacionales para promover la investigación en las áreas protegidas.	DAPVS	Convenios	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**
h. Administrar la base de datos.	DAPVS / DGIG	Informes	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**
6. Plan de negocios de Pico Bonito y Cuero y Salado.	DAPVS		**Ag**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
a. Establecer contacto con la Plataforma de Turismo compuesta por REHDES y la Cámara de Turismo de Ceiba y consensuar plan de trabajo.	DAPVS	Reuniones, giras de trabajo.	**X**				**X**
b. Coordinar con IHT acciones tendientes a fortalecer la Plataforma de Turismo e implementar el plan de trabajo sobre los centros de visitantes.	DAPVS	Reuniones Giras	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**
c. Revisar los convenios de co manejo a fin de	DAPVS	Convenios	**X**	**X**			

incorporar lo relacionado con el equipamiento y la administración de los centros de visitantes.							
d. Promover la aprobación de los nuevos convenios de co manejo.	GG/ DAPVS	Convenios	**X**	**X**			
e. Promover y gestionar financiamiento ante la cooperación internacional para el apoyo en la implementación del plan de negocios	GG / DAPVS	Reuniones	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**
f. Establecer un plan de monitoreo para la ejecución del Plan de Negocios de Pico Bonito y Cuero y Salado.	DAPVS	Plan de trabajo		**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**
7. Reserva Transfronteriza Corazón.	DAPVS		**Ag**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
a. Dar a conocer a nivel de COHDEFOR la situación de la Reserva Patuca, Tawahka y Rus Rus y discutir acciones para la zona.	DAPVS	Reuniones	**X**	**X**			
b. Dar a conocer a nivel interinstitucional la situación de la Reserva Patuca, Tawahka y Rus Rus a fin de coordinar acciones para la zona.	GG/ DAPVS	Reuniones		**X**	**X**	**X**	
c. Coordinar con SERNA acciones en el área de estudio.	GG/ DAPVS	Reuniones y plan de trabajo			**X**	**X**	**X**
d. Incorporarse en las reuniones de la preparación del Proyecto Corazón.	GG/ DAPVS	Plan de trabajo	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**

Annex 11. Map - Biodiveristy in Priority Areas - Land Use and Project Protected Areas (IBRD 28851)

[INSERT MAP No.: IBRD 28851]

IBRD 28851

HONDURAS

BIODIVERSITY IN PRIORITY AREAS PROJECT
Land Use and Project Protected Areas

BELIZE
GUATEMALA
EL SALVADOR
NICARAGUA
Gulf of Honduras
Caribbean Sea
PACIFIC OCEAN
ISLAS DE LA BAHIA
ATLANTIDA
CORTES
COLON
GRACIAS A DIOS
YORO
OLANCHO
SANTA BARBARA
COPAN
OCOTEPEQUE
LEMPIRA
INTIBUCA
COMAYAGUA
FRANCISCO MORAZAN
LA PAZ
EL PARAISO
VALLE
CHOLUTECA
MOSQUITIA
PATUCA TAWAHKA
CORDILLERA NOMBRE DE DIOS
Punta Sal
Punta Izopo
Cuero y Salado
Pico Bonito
Texiguat
La Muralla
Caratasca
Warunta
Mocorón
Kruta
Rus Rus
Tawahka
Patuca
La Tigra
TEGUCIGALPA
Río Aguán
Río Sico
Río Paulaya
Río Ulúa
Río Sulaco
Río Chamelecón
Río Chumbagua
Río Patuca
Río Jalán
Río Coco
Lake Yojoa

0 25 50 75 100 Kilometers
0 25 50 75 Miles

88° 86° 84° 16° 14°

LAND USE:
- PINE, OAK FORESTS
- BROADLEAF
- MANGROVE
- AGRICULTURE
- PASTURE
- WETLANDS

- SELECTED PROTECTED AREAS
- PROJECT PROTECTED AREA GROUPS
- NATIONAL CAPITAL
- RIVERS
- DEPARTMENT BOUNDARIES
- INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES

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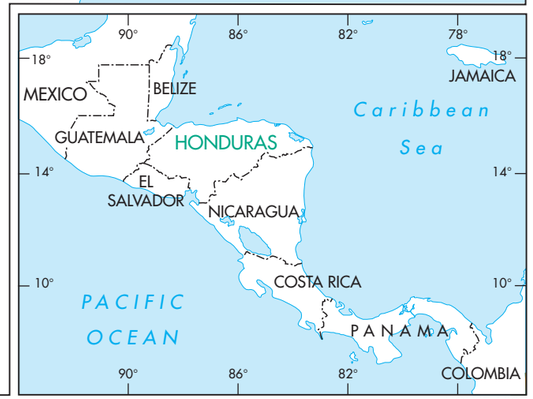

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