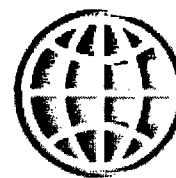




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## Implementation Completion Report

# Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation (COMSTEC) Project

Sarstoon Temash Institute  
for Indigenous Management



Punta Gorda, Toledo District  
Belize, Central America  
January 2006

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### I. Basic Data:

- (1) Date of Completion Report: 3<sup>rd</sup> of December, 2005
- (2) Project Title: Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC)
- (3) GEF Allocation: US\$806,680
- (4) Grant Recipient: Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM)
- (5) World Bank Manager/Task Team: Juan Martinez
- (6) Goals and Objectives:

The goal and project objectives were consistent throughout project implementation and have been largely accomplished, but further efforts and assistance is needed to sustain the benefits to villagers, to their local organization and to biodiversity in the park and adjacent areas. The goals were maintained as follows:

- 1 Reduce land degradation and conserve globally significant biodiversity resources in the Sarstoon Temash National Park (STNP) and its buffer zones
- 2 Management of natural resources of STNP and its buffer zone based on the concept of local indigenous rights
- 3 Social, economic and cultural development in the buffer zone communities

The specific project objectives were to conserve biodiversity and increase habitat in productive landscapes of Sarstoon Temash National Park in the buffer and influence zones by (A) Environmentally sound agricultural productivity improvements and small income generating activities, (B) Community self-organisation strengthened (C) Biodiversity assessed by communities status and trends monitored, (D) Resource Management Plan for STNP Developed (E) National Park regulations and the Management Plan implemented and enforced and (F) Project Implemented Efficiently.

This project complemented the Maya Leaders Association 10 Points agreement with the Government of Belize and the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Garifuna Council and the Government of Belize in 2000. It has provided unique opportunities for indigenous community participation in the formulation of a park management strategy, and inclusion in other national policies governing the sustainable use and management of Belize's natural resources. The COMSTEC target to reconcile conservation ethics and land use practices of indigenous people in a manner that induces new national protected areas policies and planning has been achieved.

The project has advanced Belize's compliance with the Convention on Biological Diversity specifically relating to Article 8J, participation of indigenous peoples. COMSTEC complements the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC) and the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System initiatives at regional level in that it supports conservation of continuous ecosystemic bands of natural areas, buffer zones and connectors, containing high levels of

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diversity of flora and fauna, both terrestrial and marine. The projects are part of an approach that seeks habitat enhancement for flora and fauna in productive landscapes and is at the same time linked to poverty alleviation close to protected areas in the Atlantic zone of Central America.

Objectives were revised and indicators refined during the mid term evaluation and recommendations focused on (a) **poverty** with continued efforts for demarcation of village boundaries, resolution of land insecurity and other conditions facilitating local development (eco- and ethno- tourism, create the infrastructure, extend visitors facilities, and invest in marketing and advertising); (b) **community capacity building** strengthening women's participation in SATIIM, STNP management and community development, with more focus on practical skills and increased collaboration between the Village Council and the *Alcaldes*; (c) **biodiversity monitoring** regarding indicator species, a database, cost effective data collection and trend analysis; (d) **policy changes** to include indigenous traditional uses of natural resources proposed in the STNP Management Plan with clear monitoring protocols and mechanisms for extraction activities; and (e) **park management** balancing the establishment of park boundaries and regular patrols with community development initiatives in the buffer zone and bi-national strategies.

### (7) Financial Information

Table 1 shows changes from the original financing plan, including co-financing with key components (initial and final allocations) although expenditures were maintained as planned within the categories established in the MSP brief.

Table 1. Summary of GEF funding including planned and actual expenditure (up to October, 2005)

Project Component	Planned US \$	Expenditures October, 05 US \$	Variance US \$	Relative Change %
(A) Environmentally Sound Agricultural Productivity Improvement and Small Income Generating Activities Introduced	10,000.00	9,647.32	- 352.68	-4
(B) Community Self Organization Strengthened	35,000.00	61,753.88	26,753.88	+76
(C) Biodiversity Assessed by Communities, Status and Trends Monitored	160,000.00	129,925.21	-30,074.79	-19
(D) Resource Management Plan for the STNP Developed	140,000.00	126,702.46	-13,297.54	-9
(E) National Park Regulations and Management Plan Implemented and Enforced	220,000.00	99,600.00	-120,400.00	-55
(F) Project Implemented Efficiently	241,680.00	-297,572.26	-55,892.26	+23
TOTAL	806,680.00	-725,201.13	81,478.87	-10

All funding by the World Bank was committed within the three years of the project. In April 2005 a revision exercise of the budget was conducted and to date (31<sup>st</sup> October, 2005) 90% of

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the budget has been expended. It is anticipated that to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2005, 100% of the budget will be expended.

The project multiplied expected contributions from diverse sources, including the Oak Foundation, the United Nations Development Program, the British Government and Conservation International. Specific sources of co-financing from IFAD/CIDB were not realized as planned despite SATIIM proposals to the Community Agriculture Rural Development (CARD) project. Financial support from the GOB also never materialized, although extensive technical assistance and some donations of materials (park ranger uniforms) were received from the Forestry Department. Table 2 shows summary of contributions to the project.

Table 2: Summary of contributions to project (US \$)

Project Contributors	Planned in MSP	Contribution committed under project	Continued commitment
	US\$	US\$	US\$
Government of Belize (Forest Department in-kind and uniforms, Police/BDF patrols)	22,000.00	16,200	16,000
IFAD/CIDB	119,000.00		
Oak/Ecologic- Coastal Zone		250,000	
Oak/Ecologic- Cacao		200,000	
USNH		500	
Protected Areas Conservation Trust		21,010	
Conservation International		15,500	2,700
British Embassy/FUNDAECO		30,000	
GEF/SGP		20,000	20,000
Universities (University of Belize, University of Florida, Galen University, London Botanical Garden)		40,000	60,000
Communities		50,120	
World Bank (supervision, auditing, studies)		49,500	
Total Project Costs	141,000	676,630	98,600

Funding was garnered from other donors to expand different aspects of the project, e.g. \$250,000 was received by SATIIM and the Ecologic Development Fund to create a coastal marine buffer zone for the national park, advance bi-national coordination and strengthen SATIIM as an institution. US\$40,000 was received from the United Nations Development Program GEF Small Grants Program to further work on the marine buffer zone of the park. US\$30,000 was received from the British Embassy in Guatemala through FUNDAECO for agro-forestry expansion, eco-tourism infrastructure and bi-national dialogue and conflict prevention. US \$18,200.00 was donated to SATIIM by Conservation International to establish in-house GIS Capability. Through this grant SATIIM hired a full time GIS Mapper/Data Analyst to produce maps for the villages and the national park.

## II. Project Impact Analysis

### (1) Project Impacts

Table 3: Objectives and indicators related to products and services achieved

Objectives	Indicator (Log-frame) Change of Indicator and Justification	Products and Services Achieved
Reduce land degradation and conserve globally significant biodiversity resources in the Sarstoon Temash National Park and its buffer zones	Information on status/trends of biodiversity resources in STNP available to ensure effective conservation efforts by communities, GOB, NGOs. Agricultural encroachment into STNP adjacent to communities firstly stabilised and managed and then significantly reduced.	All field research on status and trends of biodiversity implemented in partnership with the indigenous communities.  Indigenous community demand for agriculture land for cultivation in the STNP significantly reduced and community attitudes and behaviours with respect to reforestation with native species have been favourably altered. Tree nurseries are operational in all five villages.  Analysis of time series remote sensing of the STNP indicates a reversal of deforestation in the park and a slowing of deforestation in a 5 km the buffer zone.
Management of natural resources of STNP and its buffer zone based on the concept of local indigenous rights.	Regular and meaningful community involvement in the management of STNP.  Delegation of natural resource management powers from GOB to communities.	Communities are involved in all aspects of the planning, decision making and implementation of the park management plan  SATIIM signed Co-management agreement with Government of Belize on behalf of the five indigenous communities
Social, economic and cultural development of the buffer zone communities.	Completed buffer zone management strategy. Proposals for expanding community development plans, under the Village Council's Act. Completed land and resource use assessments, to determine community land use patterns. Zoning and proper boundary transition inside buffer zone	Plan for sustainable economic activities is hampered by unsecured land tenure. Land distribution does not consider traditional land tenure arrangements of indigenous communities. Land and resource use assessment completed for the five buffer communities.
Component/Outcome of Project	Indicator (Log-frame) Change of Indicator and Justification	Products and Services Achieved
A: Environmentally sound agricultural productivity	Wildlife raising for subsistence consumption or commercial sale	Five community schools established income generating and food security

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Component/Outcome of Project	Indicator (Log-frame) Change of Indicator and Justification	Products and Services Achieved
improvements and small income generating activities introduced		project with revolving funding procedures. 75 acres of organic cacao planted in the five buffer zone communities. 50% expected to produce cacao seeds in its 5 <sup>th</sup> year
	Nature guiding or outfitting services	Protected Areas Tourism Plan completed which incorporates recommendations for nature guiding and outfitting needs in partnership with five other parks.
	Production and sale of handicrafts, photographs, posters	Handicrafts, posters, T-shirts on sale at the village resource centre.
Mid Term Evaluation Focus for final year of Project	The demarcation of village boundaries;	Four communities boundaries have been mapped and demarcated
	Short term income from feasibility study on eco- and ethno- tourism, creation of infrastructure, extended visitors facilities, marketing and advertising. By September 2005 a STNP eco- and ethno- tourism programme will be in place with effective marketing, attractive services, trained personnel and a minimum infrastructure.	Indigenous Peoples Lands Eco-ethno tourism business plan completed in October 2005 and is ready for presentation to investors.
B: Community self organization strengthened	Ability to administer finances and keeping records of transactions, meetings, correspondence, and activity results	Posters and brochures have been produced, village resource centres in place, park-personal, para-biologists and equipment are in place, marketing did not take place and program did not start Training for SATIIM Board of Directors in planning, decision-making and administrative skills conducted
	Ability to plan and reach consensus on activities to be carried out to improve and manage the STNP	Board of Directors approved management and zoning plan for the STNP.
	Clearly assigned responsibilities for controlling access to STNP.	Communities have selected community rangers to patrol park boundaries and staff village resources centre to control access to the STNP.
	Local community agreement on COMSTEC objectives, activities, and project benchmarks.	More than 135 delegates from the five communities met every year to agree on project activities and benchmarks.
	Collaboration / assistance with	More than 100 primary school

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Component/Outcome of Project	Indicator (Log-frame) Change of Indicator and Justification	Products and Services Achieved
	<p>outside technical support to conduct workshops that would strengthen the overall understanding of the social, political, and ecological context of the park at the community level.</p> <p>Project implementation would start through a programming workshop with community participation to develop project brief, objectives, outcomes, activities and impact indicators.</p>	<p>students and more than 95 farmers participated in educational programmes in protected areas around Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica and the United States.</p> <p>Annual plans were produced every year for three years in collaboration with Board of Directors and indigenous people of the region.</p>
Mid Term Evaluation focus for final year of Project	<p>Women's participation in SATIIM, STNP management and community development has increased.</p> <p>Increased collaboration between the Village Council and the <i>Alcaldes</i>, adequate resources for full operation. By April 2005, SATIIM will have initiated a Board and staff training program, and facilitated the inclusion of women on the Board. By September 2005 SATIIM will have conducted and evaluated active learning processes with 50 adults and 100 children published a newsletter, have a website, received positive media attention for the STNP and buffer zone villages.</p>	<p>SATIIM has facilitated the inclusion of women on its board and has conducted training for its Board of Directors and staff (one woman elected to the board).</p> <p>A furnished office space in the village resource centre has increased collaboration between the Village Council and <i>Alcaldes</i> Training for SATIIM Board of Directors in planning, decision-making and administrative skills conducted</p> <p>Activities of project received positive print radio and television media attention. Newsletter and brochures produced and website online.</p>
C: Biodiversity assessed by communities, status and trends monitored	<p>Data on flora, fauna, soil characteristics, and water quality (hydrology) conditions in STNP and in the immediately adjacent buffer zone areas recorded.</p> <p>Data analysed and catalogued and used for management</p>	<p>Information on flora, fauna, soils, water and communities relationship with park has been established: Species list produced Ecosystem map for the STNP complimentary to national and regional maps produced. Complete dataset on the hydrological features of the national park and buffer zone communities. Analysis of geologic formations and implications of soil conditions on sustainable agriculture programmes.</p> <p>Baseline data compiled, and incorporated into the park</p>



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Component/Outcome of Project	Indicator (Log-frame) Change of Indicator and Justification	Products and Services Achieved
	planning.	management plan.
	Completed management plan from which to base monitoring and evaluation programmes	Management plan established biodiversity monitoring and evaluation programmes
	Standardised field methodologies for measuring and recording data	Field data collection methodologies developed and implemented according to internationally accepted protocols.
	Establishment of baseline indicators and benchmarks for measuring ecosystem change.	Indicators for monitoring bird, mammals and reptiles have been determined.
	Five STNP village resource centre established, maintained and used.	Five visitor centres built, furnished with fully functional office, and in use by each community.
	Cultural, biological, and geographic information about the STNP and surrounding areas compiled and organized.	Garifuna and Q'eqchi Maya traditional knowledge of area resources and uses have been recorded. The importance of area resources to the culture and spirituality of area indigenous people has been recorded and designated.
Mid Term Evaluation focus for final year of Project	Database for the analysis of trends of biological diversity and ecosystem composition. Monitoring program implemented cost effective for sustainable data collection and protocols. By September 2005 SATIIM will have re-activated, trained and equipped a community para-biologist team and have monitored the biodiversity in the STNP.	Biological diversity database for analysis of trends of biological diversity and ecosystem composition developed and in use  In February 2005 ten (10) indigenous para-biologists hired, trained and equipped and are monitoring STNP biodiversity along 10 transects in 4 ecosystems.
<b>D: Resource management plan for the STNP and its buffer zones developed.</b>	Co-management agreement prepared and agreed with GOB.  Strategic management plan completed, presented in a concise manner comprehensible and easily followed by community members.	Co-Management Agreement negotiated and signed between SATIIM and the Ministry of Natural Resources in May of 2003 STNP Management plan of the five communities was formally adopted by the Ministry for Natural Resources and Environment in June 2005, is under implementation, including policy changes recognizing the sustainable use rights of indigenous communities.

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Component/Outcome of Project	Indicator (Log-frame) Change of Indicator and Justification	Products and Services Achieved
Mid Term Evaluation focus for final year of Project	Trails and visitation areas marked	19miles of trails, 15 bridges rehabilitate and 4our visitation areas have cleared and marked inside the STNP.
	Sensitive areas protected	The importance of arcas resources to the culture and spirituality of indigenous people has been documented and designated. Additionally, ecologically sensitive areas identified and protected through zoning most of the park as a conservation zone, four areas of sphagnum moss as unique values zones, and the comfra palm forest and karst hills as indigenous use zones.
	Change of national policy in order to include indigenous traditional uses of natural resources in STNP Management Plan.	The government legal team is preparing amendment to Statutory Instrument for Sarstoon Temash National Park to reflect policy changes approved in the management plan.
	Develop and implement clear monitoring protocols and mechanisms for traditional resource extraction activities. By April 2005 the GOB will have accepted the STNP management plan and implementation of same will have begun. By September 2005 SATIIM will have upgraded traditional trails, river and sea access to the STNP, published a visitors guidebook, designed a biodiversity database and collected ongoing hydrology monitoring data.	Monitoring protocols and mechanisms for traditional resources extraction activities agreed to with the Forestry Department. STNP Management Plan accepted by government on June 2005.
<b>E: National Park Management Plan Implemented, Regulations Enforced.</b>	Trails, rivers and sea access upgraded	
	Biodiversity database designed, visitor guide book completed	
Mid Term Evaluation focus for final year of Project	STNP boundaries demarcated.	Twenty six (26) miles of park boundary have been surveyed by professional surveyor and indigenous communities.
	Park manager and wardens hired, trained, and equipped.	Four (4) park rangers and one (1) park manager have been hired, trained and equipped. Rangers granted Special Constable status that empower them to arrest violators of STNP regulations
	Develop projects for forest, land use, and watershed management and environmentally friendly	Several projects have been developed for forest land use, income generation and watershed management.

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Component/Outcome of Project	Indicator (Log-frame) Change of Indicator and Justification	Products and Services Achieved
<b>F: Project implemented efficiently</b>	local development, cost recovery and income generation for SATIIM and the STNP. Expand the park management team to include ten Park Rangers from newly identified resources and pursue bi-national conservation strategies around the Sarstoon River.	Proposals for expansion of management team pending with donors.  FUNDAFICO and SATIIM developed a bi-national Sarstoon River watershed management plan.
	By September 2005 SATIIM will have signed MOU with Belizean statutory authorities have carried out regular joint patrols with law enforcement of the STNP to reduce illegal activities in the park.	Five (5) coordinated patrols have been carried out with Belize Defence Force, Police, Fisheries and Forest Department, MOU drafted and discussed with GOB agencies by September 2005.
	Periodic project progress reports submitted on time	Quarterly progress and financial reports have been submitted on time to the World Bank.
	Procurement, accounting and auditing procedures established.	All procurement, accounting and auditing procedures agreed and endorsed by the World Bank.
	Sound financial management and clean audits	Financial management system approved by the World Bank. Clean audit report submitted to Bank for year 1 and 2. At the Bank's request a new auditing firm contracted to audit final year of Project
Mid Term Evaluation focus for final year of Project	Additional funds mobilized to continue COMSTEC programme.	Co-financing of US\$676,630 leveraged over life of COMSTEC project. Several projects have been proposed to private and public donor agencies to sustain the COMSTEC project achievements.
	By September 2005 SATIIM will have implemented a fundraising plan to ensure the continuity of activities after the end of COMSTEC and designed a long term financial sustainability plan.	SATIIM has a financial sustainability plan, good relations with long term donors and several proposals in the donor pipeline.

### (2) Project Sustainability

The COMSTEC project was the continuation of a struggle by the buffer zone communities and their organizations from 1997 on for management rights to the Sarstoon Temash National

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Park, and a starting point to scale up efforts for conservation, community-based development and resolution of indigenous rights to land and natural resources. The communities have increased their level of understanding and commitment to conservation, have built their capacity for cooperation and initiative. Neither SATIIM as an organization nor the rural indigenous communities with extreme poverty have reached sustainability of development. Only institutionalizing important functions of park management, creating sustainable sources of cost recovery from niche visitation services and products and ongoing leveraging of external assistance to community work can sustain biodiversity conservation and sustainable use on the following three levels:

### **(a) Community**

Potentials for sustained benefits have been increased by the buffer zone community residents through new skills and capacities, direct employment and income both short term and permanent, and GOB recognition of traditional rights for sustainable extraction from the national park included in the management plan. All three of these impacts have heightened community awareness and support for biodiversity conservation and SATIIM's institutional agenda for community development.

Through innovative means SATIIM has invested to build medium and long term security of income through the expansion of community agro-forestry enterprise especially the production of organic cacao. Of 75 acres planted in 2003, approximately 50% have reached maturity. In addition village boundary demarcation heightened land tenure security which would further enhance shifting from short term exploitation habits to medium and long term community forestry development. Coastal villages and settlements have agreed on coastal management for sustainable use of fisheries resources. All villages have invested in eco-tourism infrastructure and marketing as an economic alternative. Cultural practices including use of sacred sites and forest products inside the national park have been secured. External support is still needed to build on these potentials.

### **(b) Institution**

On the institutional level, SATIIM as an organization has been extensively strengthened by the COMSTEC project and now has not only the capacity assist communities to manage the national park, but to design and implement major projects for biodiversity conservation and community development in the immediate buffer zone and the wider watersheds impacting the national park. Such institutional development has resulted primarily in enhanced planning, evaluation, personnel and office management; improved accounting, procurement, budgeting and financial planning. Furthermore SATIIM has consolidated key alliances and partnerships including the long term partnership with the Ecologic Development Fund, the inter-institutional collaboration agreement with Fundación para el Eco-desarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO) for bi-national management of the Sarstoon watershed and shared coastal and marine resources and local NGOs Yaa'xche Conservation Trust, Toledo Institute of Development and Environment (TIDE) and the Maya Leaders Alliance.

Community advocacy capacity was needed to lobby GOB for both a policy framework for community based natural resource management and direct support for implementation of the co-management agreement and persists for future ventures. But SATIIM's institutional functions will only be sustained when income is generated. In fact the overall five year strategic plan for the organization includes provisions for park entrance & camping fees, individual and web-based solicitation and ecotourism revenue. Until this plan is fully implemented external funding is needed.

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### (c) Leveraging of additional resources

Efforts since the mid-term evaluation have focused on the diversification of SATIIM's funding base through the cultivation of major long term donors and the development of a long term financial sustainability plan. Long term donors to SATIIM include the Belize's Protected Areas Conservation Trust, the Oak Foundation, and Conservation International as well as other foundation and corporate donors. Bi-lateral & multinational donors including the British Embassy and the European Union have been contacted. Continued support is secured from EcoLogic for project development; grant writing and donor cultivation will be complemented with a program to build the capacity of SATIIM staff to effectively carry out these functions over the next two years.

The incremental cost analysis of COMSTEC impact on biodiversity indicates that the GEF investment created additionalities to the baseline scenario. Specifically, the elimination of slash and burn agriculture in the park, the regulation of remaining non-slash and burn dry season corn fields (matambres), and the reduction of cross border incursions and illegal activity in the park are directly attributable to the GEF investment and would not likely have been achieved without the COMSTEC project. Other indirect impacts, including positive changes in the policy framework due to the STNP management plan and potential changes as a result of the village boundary demarcations support by SATIIM, stand to make further advances in biodiversity conservation in the Sarstoon Temash region.

Table 4: Incremental Cost Analysis

Factor identified in MSP	COMSTEC Additionality
Expansion of agricultural frontier	Milpas in park eliminated; Matambres in park regulated and controlled; Milpas in buffer zone continue to expand.
Construction of southern highway	Highway completed, migration, land speculation and commercial agriculture expanding, environmental and social impacts not assessed.
Insecure land tenure for indigenous communities	Situation same at policy level, while boundary demarcation on the ground and GOB recognition creates opportunities for positive change.
Low protected area management capacity and coordination	SATIIM capacity significantly strengthened and coordination with other protected area managers in Toledo and bi-national watershed increased.
Cross border incursions	Joint patrols with Police/BDF has reduced incursions; Temash Bar monitoring station reducing illegal activity.
People living in the park	The Temash Bar settlement, the only human occupation in the STNP, has reduced over the years to two families. Their occupation has been acknowledged and planned for in the STNP management plan. SATIIM has built a monitoring facility on one of the house sites in the settlement and current impact is minimal.
Logging concessions around the park	Several concessions in the buffer zone have not been renewed while new concessions farther from the STNP continue to be granted
Mining	Gravel mining in STNP halted. Threat still active-seismic testing for oil fields about to commence.

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### (3) Ability to replicate

The potential for extending COMSTEC successes to seven additional communities in the Sarstoon Temash and Moho watersheds is based on similar conditions and needs in two primary areas:

- a) Replication of village boundary demarcation with conflict resolution in the overlap areas;
- b) Applying the conservation, monitoring and sustainable use of biodiversity through medium and long term investments in community forestry

The COMSTEC project represents a successful experience of building community consensus around shared strategies for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Its political recognition creates conditions for replication throughout the 36 indigenous villages in the Toledo District, protected areas in Belize and Central America.

Since the beginning of the COMSTEC project, SATIIM has been specifically concerned with replicating successful experience in additional communities in the buffer zone of the STNP and beyond. SATIIM and community leadership have piloted sustainable solutions to the more generalized situation of environmental degradation and increasing poverty facing the indigenous communities in the Toledo District as a whole.

Specific efforts to replicate the COMSTEC experience have been undertaken by documenting best practices and lessons learned through the mid-term evaluation of COMSTEC and the complementary coastal marine initiative and the terrestrial and marine management plans and making them easily available to local, national and regional NGO's and policy makers.

Networking with other local organizations including joint biodiversity monitoring with the Yaa'xche Conservation Trust, Toledo Institute for Development and Environment, joint political work with the Toledo Alcaldes Association and the Toledo Maya Women's Council through the Toledo Healthy Forests Initiative has led to government support for major EU community forestry proposals. Cooperation with the Toledo Cacao Growers Association has led to the expansion of organic cacao sold on fair trade markets. The Tri-national Alliance for the Conservation of the Gulf of Honduras has led to the Guatemalan Fundación Mario Dary and the Honduran Cuerpos de Conservación de Omoa replicating the SATIIM/FUNDAECO bi-national coordination strategy.

The geographic expansion to more villages has been discussed and mandated by the SATIIM Board of Directors and active fundraising is underway. Success throughout the district can be expected from applying the model for conflict resolution of indigenous land and natural resource rights with the Maya Leaders Alliance, which received support from legal teams of Universities of Arizona and Toronto.

Regional initiatives coordinated by EcoLogic have opened perspectives from ecosystem conservation to watershed management for the Sarstoon basin. SATIIM experience presents outstanding value for planning the phase two of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System Project. Bi-national collaboration, particularly with FUNDAECO and Ak'Tinamit, in Guatemala has promoted a model for community based management of fisheries resources which can be replicated on the Guatemalan side of Amatique Bay.

#### **(4) Stakeholder Involvement**

SATIIM has taken an integrated approach in order to maximize stakeholder involvement as the key strategy for creating sustainability. Particularly the five indigenous communities in the buffer zone have been systematically involved in all aspects of the project. Permanent mechanisms ensure feedback and building consensus around strategic program lines and participation in decision making. District and National level indigenous organizations such as the Toledo Alcaldes Association, The Q'eqchi Council of Belize and the National Garifuna Council have been active on the Board of Directors and have participated in decision making in the project. The approach has been adjusted over the life of the project, tending to expand as community awareness, interest and capacity to participate in SATIIM programs has grown.

Specific strategies have achieved the high level of community stakeholder participation through (a) community consultation for three annual operating plans, two strategic plans, extensive STNP and STMMA management planning, as well as on the Sarstoon watershed, (b) decision making based on institutional arrangements and competence for action of the Board of Directors, the system of community park rangers, the coordination with Alcaldes and Village Council chair people, (c) hiring of village residents through local governance institutions for many project activities, including the research for STNP / STMMA baseline studies, the demarcation of the park, village resource centre/Temash Bar Monitoring Station construction, construction of trail and visitation infrastructure, and biodiversity monitoring, (d) focus on the new generation in schools combining tools, supplies and equipment with volunteer community labour to develop gardening, chicken and pig rearing projects in all the villages, (e) experiential and hand-on learning processes involved elders and school aged youth, village leaders, women, farmers, and fishers in a variety of to build knowledge, skills and capacity (f) advocacy for community interests in the terrestrial and marine management plans, community boundary demarcation, and GOB support for reduction of illegal activities in the park has mobilized volunteer community leadership for important policy changes and supported changes of framework conditions positively, and (f) participatory evaluation, reflecting experiences has strengthened project learning and refinement of strategies during and after mid-term & final evaluations, Alcalde/Village Council coordination meetings, school principal and teacher evaluations of educational programming, and feedback on personnel performance.

#### **(5) Monitoring and Evaluation**

Under the COMSTEC project, three levels of monitoring and evaluation were in operation including (a) scientific baseline and monitoring, (b) day to day project coordination and (c) participatory community feedback on project objectives and indicators at specific phases of the project.

SATIIM created a scientific baseline for the situation in the park and surrounding communities. Continued biodiversity monitoring will provide insights to ecosystem dynamics and trends. Socio-economic and cultural studies provided understanding of potentials of development. By year three of COMSTEC, SATIIM stores geo-referenced field information on biodiversity, community agriculture and park threats in a standardized database. Maps of the area are produced in SATIIM's offices in Punta Gorda.

With reference to the additionalities created by the GEF investment, analysis of remote sensing data for the Sarstoon Temash region for the decade 1991-2001 shows that the trend

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towards a reduction in forest cover in a 10 km buffer zone around the park was reversed in 1996 and forest cover actually expanded through 2001. In a 5 km buffer zone forest cover has remained relatively constant and the agricultural expansion observed between 1991-1996 was greatly reduced between 1996 and 2001. Within a 1 km buffer zone forest cover has remained constant and agricultural production has been reduced to between 50-100 ha. Continued analysis of remote satellite imagery for the STNP from a part of the biodiversity monitoring system developed under COMSTEC.

<b>Outputs related to M&amp;E, Date of termination</b>	<b>Relevance of output</b>	<b>Monitoring Potential and Priorities</b>
<b>(A) Physical and biological environment</b>		
<b>Rapid Ecological Assessment</b>	Concluded biodiversity indices, detailed species list for STNP, detailed ecosystem map for the area. Determined schedule for monitoring and protocols.	Regular monitoring by community members with support from local experts. Updated species list, updated ecosystem map, quantified human impacts on the park, able to observe any change in ecosystem dynamics.
<b>Hydrology Assessment</b>	STNP is a wetland national park and knowing the health of the watershed and aquatic ecosystems will enable proper management of the park. RAMSAR application completed and submitted to Government of Belize as a part of national submission to IUCN.	Continued monitoring of local waterways will be able to determine health of the Temash and Sarstoon watersheds. Regular monitoring of watersheds will support RAMSAR. Opportunities for coordination with Hydrology Unit and Department of Meteorology.
<b>Geology and Soils Assessment</b>	Acidic soils with reference to agricultural production. Determine the potentials of the area for community forestry production.	Further testing needed to determine the importance of buffering and working with organic soil amendments.
<b>Temash River Impact Mapping</b>	Quantify potential threats to the health of the watershed, identify areas for management interventions, document extent of river use within a 1-mile radius of the river course.	Those areas with highest level of threat area priority areas for monitoring.
<b>(B) Social-Economic and cultural</b>		
<b>Maya and Garifuna Traditional Knowledge Studies</b>	SATIIM's park management strategy focuses on reconciling local indigenous land use and resource consumption with the national conservation agenda.	Regular monitoring will be required of extraction zones to determine extent of human impact in these areas. Additionally mechanisms for management of these zones will have to be developed and monitored.
<b>Socio-economic Assessment</b>	Study gave a clear understanding of the social and economic baseline in each of the buffer zone communities. Is the basis for designing additional programmatic initiatives and interventions.	Ability to monitor village level statistics and demographics, development of enterprises at the village level, social infrastructure and services. Basis for measuring quality of life improvements.
<b>Ecotourism potential and pre-feasibility study</b>	Set choice for non-destructive economical development	Ability to set focus to monitor essential data on attractions, services, visitor streams and set indicators for tourism development
<b>Park and village boundaries survey</b>	Sets a visual border line and frame for agreements on conservation use of	Ability to make inventories of resources of the park and within the borders of the



## COMSTEC IMPLEMENTATION COMPLETION REPORT

Outputs related to M&E, Date of termination	Relevance of output	Monitoring Potential and Priorities
	biodiversity in productive landscapes, medium and long term planning of land use	village, framing investments in conservation, use and development of resources,
<b>(C) Management and institutional</b>		
<b>Project coordination</b>	Clear responsibilities, regular supervision and coordination have created an effective team on the ground.	Personnel, process and outcome evaluation and project management systems have created capacity for rapid learning, adaptive management and flexible responses to obstacles encountered.
<b>Comparative study</b>	Comparing with other GEF/WB projects generated new ideas on how to focus biodiversity conservation and sustainable use with more involvement of communities	Comparison of experiences generated a checklist which can be generally applied to upcoming projects proposals and increase quality of proposals. Methodology replicable to other projects
<b>Midterm evaluation</b>	Confirmed progress achieved. Set benchmarks for the third year of implementation	Set focus on poverty as a mayor threat to biodiversity conservation, revised budget and orientation of activities on objectives
<b>ICR-Assessment of stakeholder involvement, Biodiversity and threats, institutional development</b>	Introduces a set of criteria to involved parties, enables to draw lessons from experiences across the project, any change in actual work indicates the level of experience	Provides orientation to the M&E of STNP- Management Plan. Sets focus for ongoing monitoring activities. Improves future planning of SATIIM, cooperation agencies and World Bank with SATIIM and within the region

The baseline data collected over the course of the COMSTEC project provided the information necessary to assemble the ground breaking management plan for the park, and has created a basis from which to monitor biodiversity, land use and social trends in the park and the buffer zone. Ongoing research in the STNP includes aquatic ecology, xate surveys, remote sensing to detect changes in forest cover and coastal marine ecosystem health. The socio-economic and traditional knowledge studies has laid the basis for economic development of the buffer zone communities- identifying current community assets and practices, and how people are linked and contributing to the conservation of the park. The MTE, comparative study and ICR process have contributed to SATIIM management and communication capacity.

### **(6) Special Project Circumstances**

The high biodiversity of endemic species which justified the COMSTEC MSP was confirmed by the project research – the discovery of a new eco-system for Central America, the documentation of eco-systems unique in Belize such as the comfra palm forests near Barranco, which also have a special spiritual significance to that village, and the documentation of the critical corridor function served by the STNP- connecting the Selva Maya to the Izabal Atlántico and preserving habitat for many of the last remaining endangered mammals, birds and reptiles in the region including flagship species such as the jaguar and the manatee.

Many of the special project circumstances – particularly the socio-economic ones, were noted at mid-term, and adjustments were made in strategy to focus on poverty reduction and indigenous rights as key elements underlying sustainable biodiversity conservation. Other factors, such as the cultural survival of the Maya and Garifuna people of southern Belize depending on the preservation of the land around the Sarstoon Temash National Park, the negative impact of the territorial dispute between Belize and Guatemala on management of a remote park located along

## COMSTEC IMPLEMENTATION COMPLETION REPORT

the border and the recent move to commence oil exploration in the park have emerged more clearly since mid-term and require clear strategies and international support to move forward.

### **(7) Institutional Capacity / Partner Assessments**

#### **SATIIM Institutional Capacity**

SATIIM has grown from a staff of three people to eleven full time and ten part time staff, (see Figure 1). It forms a multi-disciplinary team with a full array of skills and capacities to manage operations.

SATIIM has a clear organizational structure with openness for visitors, well articulated organizational values, democratic decision making processes and leadership from the community Board of Directors. SATIIM was able to build processes of community consensus through the consultative refinement of two management plans and the demarcation of village boundaries; involving local authorities and leaders in recruiting and supervising local contractors and employees. SATIIM succeeded in implementing effective accounting, procurement and contracting procedures and the creation of systems for individual staff planning, monitoring and evaluation.

With regard to internal and external financial reporting, World Bank requirements have led SATIIM to document almost all of its activities and expenditures professionally and produce detailed reports on both program activities and finances, which have been shared with and supported by the Board of Directors and communities.

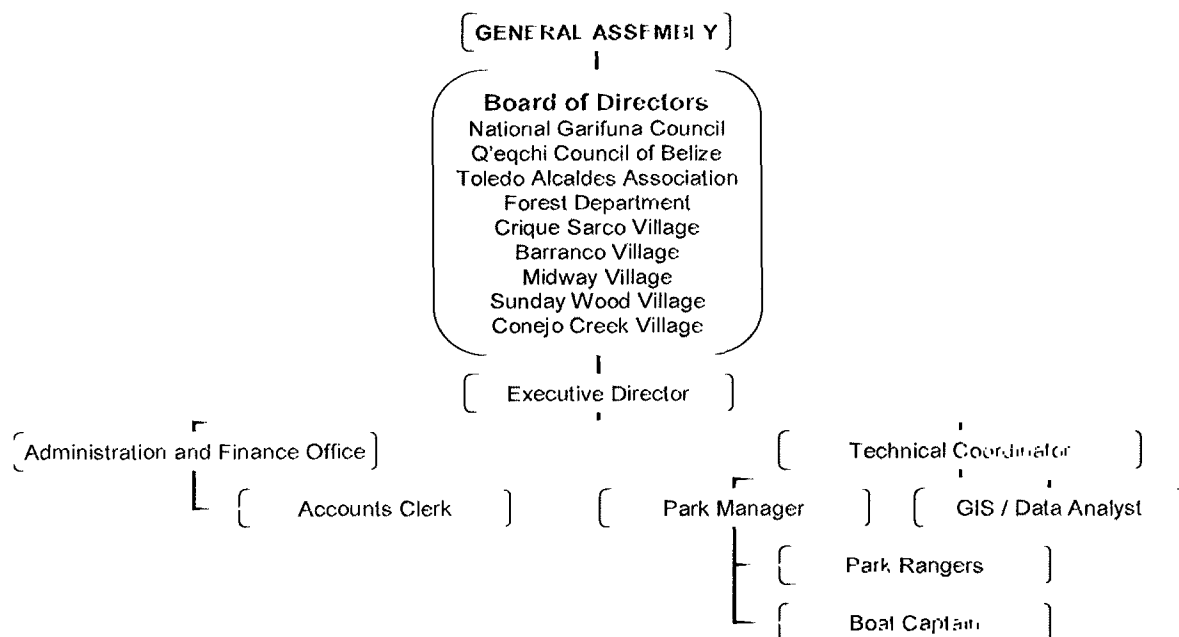
Apart from GEF/WB funding, SATIIM is currently cooperating with four primary donors, the Oak Foundation, Conservation International, the United Nations Development Program and Belize's Protected Areas Conservation Trust. It strives to fund most operating and program costs and continues to diversify this funding base. The absence of unrestricted income for general payments of office space, energy, telephone, and support staff is presenting limitations to SATIIM's capacity to respond flexibly to events. This situation could improve with ecotourism operations for the STNP and other income from any steady service.

#### **Partner Assessments**

SATIIM signed a co-management agreement with the Forest Department and an inter-institutional collaboration agreement with FUNDABCO in May of 2002. The renewal of the long term partnership agreement with the Ecology Development Fund in 2004 earned a full time staff person to work with SATIIM and the joint implementation of the coastal zone initiative. In 2004 SATIIM also became an active member of the Tri-National Alliance for the Conservation of the Gulf of Honduras (TRIGOII) and an official support agency for the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System (MBRS) project, expanding the areas of activity to regional coastal and marine conservation.

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Figure 1: Organisational Structure of SATIIM during the COMSTEC project



SATIIM's relation to GEF/World Bank has grown through management support from regular supervision, comparative and mid term evaluation with revised indicators, task allocation and agenda.

### III. Summary of Main Lessons Learned

#### *Community people can take over park management*

Project experience confirmed that traditional knowledge and experience of Garifuna and Q'eqchi' Indigenous peoples was relevant and useful to park management. Incorporating indigenous communities in decision making and park planning has mainstreamed traditional indigenous practices of biodiversity conservation and supported them with internationally recognized scientific research.

#### *State support is essential for a policy environment conducive to the continuity of benefits*

The policy changes in the STNP management plan need to be formalized in a revised statutory instrument for the national park; GOB formal recognition of village boundaries; agreement to schedule of good faith negotiations with the Maya Leaders Alliance under Ten Points of Agreement and implementation of IACHR recommendations; and support for the Toledo Healthy Forest Initiative European Union proposal for strengthening of village governance institutions for land and natural resource management and development of community forest enterprises for poverty reduction. GOB actions in these areas will sustain advances made through COMSTEC.

#### *Conflict with land for biodiversity conservation and use*

Land tenure insecurity was identified during implementation as a strong disincentive for conservation and long term investment. Insecure property rights and conflicting responsibilities over community lands between indigenous communities and increased land acquisition by outsiders have negatively impacted efforts to reduce deforestation in the STNP buffer zone.

## COMSTEC IMPLEMENTATION COMPLETION REPORT

Demarcation of village boundaries and signing of legal agreements among neighbouring communities and the park provides a successful modality for resolving these conflicts.

### *Enterprise formation for sustainability to lower pressure on national park*

The project has created a unique baseline of biodiversity, socioeconomic and cultural information. Geo-referenced data has been analyzed and has gained strategic importance for conserving biodiversity and developing environmental friendly community based enterprises for the creation of a alternative income. Community forestry, multiple eco/ethno-tourism attractions and services, and craft production and marketing are the major potentials for the conservation of the park while reducing poverty in the buffer zone indigenous communities.

### *Integrating young people and elders*

The traditional knowledge of indigenous elders regarding forest product uses, medicinal plants, and the traditional management practices of the Q'eqchi Maya and Garifuna peoples has been demonstrated to play an important role in successful biodiversity conservation. The extensive training of young people in the villages has created an openness to visitors, researchers and their themes and a willing cadre of trained volunteers and part time employees to carry out biodiversity monitoring, guiding and research support.

### *Micro investment suffers from structural marginalization*

Because of the isolation of the STNP and the absence of a productive or governance infrastructure in the Toledo District, and the discrimination and economic marginalization of the indigenous communities, small scale investments in micro-enterprise are insufficient to catalyze sustainable reductions in poverty or jump start a depressed regional economy.

### *Networking with other protected area managers and research institutions*

Important next steps to follow up and build on the successful COMSTEC experience include scaling up of the model of indigenous management for all the communities in the Sarstoon, Temash and Moho River watersheds in southern Belize. Based on the accumulated experience, trust and legitimacy, SATIIM is uniquely situated to network with regional stakeholders including NGO's, tour operators, communities and Belizean government institutions to mainstream biodiversity conservation in the productive landscapes surrounding the national park. The scientific and technical baseline present an attractive asset for national and international research institutions, and SATIIM and communities can provide infrastructure and orientation for fieldwork with practical and lasting results.

The indigenous community managed Sarstoon Temash conservation project implemented by SATIIM has grown into an important example of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the face of extreme rural poverty and regional structural disadvantage.

## **IV Financial Management Status**

A Bank mission integrated by Luz A. Zcrón, (Financial Management Consultant) visited Punta Gorda, Belize, from December 5 to 8, 2005. The objective of the mission was to perform a financial management supervision of the Belize - Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project implemented by the Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM). Specifically the mission objectives were to follow-up the functions of: internal controls; accounting and financial reporting; flow of funds; external audit, and the closing procures of the grant. The Bank's consultant met Ms. Aretha Mortis, the Project Accountant.

## COMSTEC IMPLEMENTATION COMPLETION REPORT

The overall conclusion is that the project maintains adequate controls, records, and accounts in order to properly identify, record, and report the goods and services financed with grant proceeds, and except for the pending explanations on the variance for some line items, between budget and actual expenditures, the recommendations agreed during the supervision mission of April 2005 have been implemented.

### Actions agreed.

The rest of the aid memoire covers in detail the issues evaluated. The main actions agreed with SATIIM are as follows:

- a) Financial reporting. SATIIM will submit the Bank the final FMRs, period ending December 31, 2005, but not later than February 15, 2006. Along with the FMRs, SATIIM will include the conciliations and bank statements of the Special and operating accounts. Any outstanding balance in the bank accounts as of December 31, 2005, net of the outstanding audit fees, should be reimbursed to the Bank.
- b) Inventory of fixed assets. SATIIM will conduct a physical inventory of fixed assets, up-date the register, and reconcile the register with project records. The inventory will be submitted to the Bank along with the FMRs of December 2004.
- c) Budget execution. Finalize the analysis of the variances, identified during the April 2005 financial management mission, for the expenditures line items for which SATIIM has not provided adequate explanation, and reimburse to the project funds the bank charges of BZ\$1,912 paid with grant funds.
- c) External Audit. The external auditors, Mark C. Hulse, have issued a preliminary report for the review of the eight (8) months ending May 31, 2005. The auditors have issued clean opinions and no serious issues regarding the project's compliance with the grant agreement or weaknesses in the internal control structure were noted. The auditors should apply procedures to review any transactions after December 31, 2005, which should be limited to payments of commitments for services and goods rendered on or before December 31, 2005.
- d) SATIIM will request the Bank the approval to issue the final audit report covering the 15 months from October 2004 to December 2005, as at present the no-objection is for the fiscal year ending September 2005 only.
- e) Submit to the Bank the final audit report by March 31, 2006.
- f) Procurement. SATIIM will organize the procurement files by supporting each procurement of goods and services with the request for bids or proposals, quotes received the evaluation of the proposals, and the selection process, the Bank's no-objection, and any other related documents. At present although the documents are available they are not filed in a logical order.
- g) The consultant would follow-up with the Project Manager on the approval of the revised budget as of April 2005 and the reallocation of the contingency funds.

### *Results*

## COMSTEC IMPLEMENTATION COMPLETION REPORT

1. Staff. The Project Accountant has been handling the project accounts for three years in a competent and efficient manner and an accountant clerk was hired as agreed in the prior financial management supervision. Since GEF funding ends in December 2005, financing of the actual staff will be subject to the funding from other sources. For information purposes the current staff funded by GEF, is as follows;

Name of Officers	Position
Gregory Choc	Executive Director
Joanna Monk (position ended to 12/03)	Technical Coordinator
Aretha Mortis	Finance Officer
Seleem Chan	Park Manager
	Accounts Clerk/
Elizabeth Sho	Receptionist
Anasario Cal	Park Warden
Enrique Makin	Park Warden
Thomas Ishim	Park Warden
Egbert Valencio	Park Warden

2. Project records. Project records are updated, monthly bank conciliations are prepared, supporting documentation is adequately filed, and a fixed assets register is kept. The mission observed some issues that need to be improved as follows:
  - a) The bank reconciliation for the operating account showed an un-reconciled difference of BZ\$2,270.
  - b) Fixed assets register: (a) register was not totaled and supported with conciliation with the project records; (b) a minor difference between the register and project records was noted.; and (c) as part of the mission a limited physical inspection was performed, and it was noted that the location for some of the assets as reported in the fixed assets register did not agree with the labels of the physical items inspected at the two of the Resources Centers, therefore it was recommended to perform a physical inventory before December 31, 2005, up-date the register and reconcile it with the project records.
  - c) The procurement documents, although available, are not filed in a logical order. As a result it was recommended to organize the files, by supporting each procurement of goods and services with the request for bids or proposals, quotes received the evaluation of the proposals, the selection process, the Bank's no-objection, and any other relevant documents.

### Recommendations:

- a) Analyze the difference in the bank conciliations and adjust the records as applicable.
- b) Perform a physical inventory of the fixed assets, up-date the register and add-up, total and reconcile the register with the project records.

## COMSTEC IMPLEMENTATION COMPLETION REPORT

- c) Organize the files, by supporting each procurement of goods and services with the request for bids or proposals, quotes received, the evaluation of the proposals, and the selection process, the Bank's no-objection and any other relevant documents.
3. **Procedures Manual.** As agreed in the prior financial management supervision the procedures manual has been updated.
4. **Financial monitoring reports (FMRs).** The FMRs are updated, prepared in the formats agreed with the Bank, and reconciled with project records. Copy of the FMRs as of September 2005 is included as Attachment 1 to this report. It was also agreed that the final FMR for the quarter ending December 31, 2005 will be submitted to the Bank but not later than February 15, 2006. Also, the FMRs should include the bank statements and conciliations of the Special and operating accounts. Any outstanding balance as of December 31, 2005, net of the outstanding audit fees, should be reimbursed to the Bank.
5. **Budget and disbursements.**
- a. As agreed during the financial management supervision of April 2005, SATIIM provided the Bank analysis and explanation of the variances, however, further explanation or analysis are needed for the variances listed in the table below.

Category/ Activity	Variance (in BZ\$)	% of estimated budget
Sub contracts		
Trail visitation areas	5,000	17%
Community resource centers	28,682	52%
Training		
Board training and meeting at community level	27,935	70%
Operational costs		
Vehicle and boat maintenance, office supplies, travel and communication	39,588	143%

- b. The Bank has disbursed the third and final withdrawn of funds for year 3. The project status, by investment category and component as of November 30, 2005, including the estimated expenditures for December 2005, is as follows:

Category	Original GEF GRANT	Revised 4/05	Reallocation of contingency funds	Revised budget	Expenditures to 12/05	Variance	
						Amount	%
Technical Assistance	361,500	401,565	19,650	421,215	421,276	(61)	0%
Sub Contract (Park Communities)	165,000	129,378	6,060	135,438	134,900		0%
Training	100,000	78,922	-	78,922	79,662	(740)	-1%
Equipment	79,000	79,000	2,000	81,000	80,406	594	1%
Operational Costs	62,880	87,893	2,210	90,103	90,187	(83)	0%
Contingency expenses	38,300	29,920	(29,920)	-	-	-	
Total	806,680	806,680	-	806,680	806,432	247	0%

# COMSTEC IMPLEMENTATION COMPLETION REPORT

Component	Original budget MSP/Grant	Revised Budget (see previous table)	Total expenditures to 12/05	Variance	
				Amount	%
A. Environmentally sound agricultural productivity improvements and small income generating activities introduced	10,000	7,000	10,000	(3,000)	-43%
B. Community self-organization strengthened	35,000	65,873	66,484	(611)	-1%
C. Biodiversity assessed by communities, status and trends monitored	160,000	132,902	142,313	(9,412)	-7%
D. Resource Management Plan for the STNP and its Buffer Zones developed	140,000	146,812	132,929	13,883	9%
E. National Park Regulations and Management Plan	220,000	134,492	134,730	(238)	0%
F. Efficient Project Implementation	241,680	319,602	319,976	(375)	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>806,680</b>	<b>806,680</b>	<b>806,433</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>0%</b>

The revised budget as April 2005 was analyzed by the Bank Consultant and the Financial Management Specialist; however the Project Manager has not formally informed SATIIM about the approval of the revised budget, and the resulting reallocation between categories. The use of BZ\$20,320 from the contingency funds was approved by the Bank, but reallocation of the remaining BZ\$39,520 for the payment of salaries of the project staff, from October to December 2005, still needs the final approval by the Project Manager. The consultant would follow-up with the Project Manager on the pending approval of the revised budget as of April 2005 and the reallocation of the contingency funds.

The Expenditures included bank charges of BZ\$1,912 which are not allowable, and the accountant indicated that they will be reimbursed from other sources.

6. External Audit. The external auditors, Mark C. Hulse, have been contracted and as recommended in the prior supervision mission the auditors performed a preliminary review of the first 8 months ended May 31, 2005, and they have issued the report on this review. The auditors have issued clean opinion and no serious issues regarding the project's compliance with the grant agreement or weaknesses in the internal control structure were noted. The consultant reviewed the report and noted some issues related to technical aspects of the report, which were discussed with the auditors, whom agreed to incorporate the changes, as applicable, in the final report. Also, the auditors should apply procedures to review any transactions after December 31, 2005, which should be limited to payments of commitments for services and goods rendered on or before December 31, 2005.

It was agreed that the final report will be submitted to the Bank by March 31, 2006.



## *COMSTEC Implementation Completion Report*

### **Annex 4: ICR Follow Up Table**

Project Component	Recommended action / date	Respons
(A) Environmentally Sound Agricultural Productivity Improvement and Small Income Generating Activities Introduced	Concept note complementary to national initiatives for stand alone GEF/WB Full size Project to scale up COMSTEC by February/06	Ecologic
	Small scale eco-tourism services initiated	TC
(B) Community Self Organization Strengthened	Sign agreements w/ Alcaldes and Village Council on rights and responsibilities for extraction, park management	TC
	Sign agreement on shared use and maintenance	PM
	Hand over of inventory of tools, equipment and VRC's	PM
	Monitor and support school projects	PM/PR's
	WB support for European Union Proposal for village governance strengthening, sustainable forestry and community based forest enterprises	JM
(C) Biodiversity Assessed by Communities, Status and Trends Monitored	Formalize agreements w/ para-biologists on voluntary community biodiversity monitoring	PM
	Remote sensing and biodiversity data analysis capacity enhanced w/ continued CI support	ED
(D) Resource Management Plan for the STNP Developed	Continued implementation of STNP & STMMA plans	BOD
	Alliance to ensure EIA on seismic testing and oil exploration in the STNP w/ benefit agreement to SATIIM and communities	BOD
	Fee structure for public access to STNP maps and baseline research	GIS
(E) National Park Regulations and Management Plan Implemented and Enforced	MOU w/ government agencies on support park patrols	PM
	Park entrance fee structure implemented by 4/06	TC
	PACT, OAK and CI proposals funded for park	ED

## *COMSTEC Implementation Completion Report*

(E) Project Implemented Efficiently

management

Strategic financial planning

FO/BOD

Long term institutional sustainability plan  
implemented

BOD/Ecol.c

Institutional chart of accounts

FO

## *COMSTEC Implementation Completion Report*

### **Annex 2: Incremental Cost Analysis Table**

<b>Factor identified in MSP</b>	<b>COMSTEC Additionality</b>
Expansion of agricultural frontier	Milpas in park eliminated; Matambres in park regulated and controlled; Milpas in buffer zone continue to expand.
Construction of southern highway	Highway completed, migration, land speculation and commercial agriculture expanding, environmental and social impacts not assessed.
Insecure land tenure for indigenous communities	Situation same at policy level, while boundary demarcation on the ground and GOB recognition creates opportunities for positive change.
Low protected area management capacity and coordination	SATIIM capacity significantly strengthened and coordination with other protected area managers in Toledo and bi-national watershed increased.
Cross border incursions	Joint patrols with Police/BDF has reduced incursions; Temash Bar monitoring station reducing illegal activity.
People living in the park	The Temash Bar settlement, the only human occupation in the STNP, has reduced over the years to two families. Their occupation has been acknowledged and planned for in the STNP management plan. SATIIM has built a monitoring facility on one of the house sites in the settlement and current impact is minimal.
Logging concessions around the park	Several concessions in the buffer zone have not been renewed while new concessions farther from the STNP continue to be granted
Mining	Gravel mining in STNP halted. Threat still active- seismic testing for oil fields about to commence.

*COMSTEC Implementation Completion Report*

**Annex 3: List of selected documents of the project, newsletters, presentations, posters and maps**

**Belize: "Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation (COMSTEC) Project"**  
**SATHIM December 2005**

List of selected documents which have been generated in the Project

**Conceptual papers**

Inter-institutional Agreement for the development of Joint Management Strategies for the watershed and protected areas of the Sarstoon River, between The Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management SATHIM and Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación FUNDABCO, April 2003

Concept Paper, Community Asset Building Initiatives in the Sarstoon-Temash Region, Toledo District, Southern Belize, Grant proposal to Ford Foundation: Buffer Zone Resource Management Strategy and Community Management Plans combined

SATHIM, Institutional Strengthening and Technical Capacity Building Programme to Address Issues of Illegal Logging in the Sarstoon-Temash Region of Southern Belize, grant proposal 2002

Sarstoon Binational Initiative: Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación {Fundabco} and Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATHIM)

Collaborative Partnership Agreement between the Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación and the Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management

SATHIM Coastal Zone Management Policy Statement, The need for the development of a Fisheries Management Plan for the Moho - Temash - Sarstoon coastal region of Belize

Winrock International Concept Paper, Agro forestry and Community Forest Stewardship, SATHIM Grant proposal

**PROJECT COMPONENTS**

A. Environmentally sound agricultural productivity improvements and small income generating activities introduced.

**B. Community self-organization strengthened**

Annual Programming Workshop, Board Training & Meeting, Facilitator Board of Director's Training, Community and Public Relations Issues, Peer to Peer Learning.

Consultant's Final Report, Central America, Indigenous Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use by Poor Indigenous Communities. Comparative Study of Management among GEF-MSG Projects in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Belize, October 2004.

(STNPSC) Sarstoon Temash National Park Steering Committee Meeting. Crique Sarco, 6 September, 1999.

(STNPSC) Sarstoon Temash National Park Steering Committee Meeting Barranco 17 November, 1999.

SATIIM), Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management Inaugural Board of Directors Meeting, KCB Office, October 13, 2000.

SATIIM, Second Board of Directors Meeting, KCB's Conference Room, November 15, 2000.

SATIIM Third Board of Directors Meeting, KCB Conference Room, December 13, 2000.

SATIIM, Fourth Board of Directors' Meeting, KCB Conference Room, August 28, 2001.

SATIIM, Board of Directors Meeting, January 21, 2002.

SATIIM, Board of Directors Meeting, TMCC Office, March 8, 2002.

SATIIM, Board of Directors Meeting, Conejo Village, April 19, 2002.

SATIIM, Board of Directors Meeting, Punta Gorda Town, July 3, 2002.

SATIIM, Board of Directors Meeting, Punta Gorda, August 14, 2002.

SATIIM, Board of Directors Meeting, Punta Gorda, September 25, 2002.

SATIIM, Board of Directors Meeting, Punta Gorda, October 23, 2002.

SATIIM, Board of Directors Meeting, December 18, 2002.

SATIIM, Extra-ordinary Meeting, MIA Conference Room, January 22, 2003.

SATIIM, Board of Directors Meeting, SATIIM Office, March 19, 2003.

SATIIM, Board of Directors Meeting, SATIIM Office, July 2, 2003.

SATIIM, Board of Directors Meeting, SATIIM Office, December 10, 2003.

SATIIM, Board of Directors Meeting, SATIIM Office, December 10, 2003.

SATIIM, Board of Directors Meeting, SATIIM Office, July 7, 2004.

SATIIM, Board of Directors Meeting, Punta Gorda, August 11, 2004.

SATIIM, Board of Directors Meeting, Punta Gorda, September 28, 2004.

SATIIM, Board of Directors Meeting, Punta Gorda, November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

SATIIM, Board of Directors Meeting, Punta Gorda, November 11, 2004.

SATIIM, Board of Directors Meeting, Punta Gorda, November 24, 2004.

SATIIM, Board of Directors Meeting, Punta Gorda, January 26, 2005.

SATHIM, Board of Directors Meeting, Punta Gorda, February 23, 2005.

SATHIM, Board of Directors Meeting, El Rey Inn Belmopan, March 11, 2005.

SATHIM, Board of Directors Meeting, Punta Gorda, April 14, 2005.

SATHIM, Board of Directors Meeting, Punta Gorda, May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

SATHIM, Board of Directors Meeting, Punta Gorda, August 10, 2005.

SATHIM, Board of Directors Meeting, Punta Gorda, September 28, 2005.

SATHIM, Board of Directors Meeting, Punta Gorda, November 14, 2005.

### **C. Biodiversity assessed by communities, status and trends monitored**

Para-biologist Conduct REA & Inventory, Botanist, Zoologist, Para-biologist Train in REA & Inventory, Participatory TEK, Para biologist Monitoring & Evaluation, Establish STNP Resource Center, Indigenous Knowledge Specialist, Ethno-Scientific Specialist, Elders to Document Traditional Knowledge. December 2003.

#### **Studies**

SATHIM Hydrological project, Final Report, Prepared By: Philip Morgan, PhD., August 24, 2003

Sarstoon Temash National Park, Park Use Policies, Zoning Plan and User Fees, Iandi Consultants, November 2003

Rapid Ecological Assessment, Sarstoon Temash National Park, Toledo District, Belize by J. C. Meerman,,P. Herrera, A. Howe, in Partnership with the Garifuna and the Q'eqchi Maya People of the Sarstoon Temash Region. December 2003, Report prepared for Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATHIM) Volume I, Volume II (species list and raw data)

Socio Economic Assessment of the Sarstoon Temash Region, Final Report, Prepared by: RME Consultants Group

Village maps presentation, PPT October 2003

Grandia Elizabeth, the Wealth Report, April 17, 2004

R. Steps and Santiago Ruiz, Garifuna Traditional Knowledge, 2004.

### **D. Resource Management Plan for the STNP and its Buffer Zone Developed**

Hydrologist, Geologist, Socio-Economic Specialist, Public Use Planner, Eco-Tourism Planner, Eco-Tourism Planner, Park Planner, Coastal Zone Planner, Trail Infrastructure Development, Trail & Visitation Areas, Applied Research Programme

Final Report, Geologic and Soil Assessment, Sarstoon-Temash National Park and Buffer Zone, by Brian Holland, Punta Gorda, Belize. December 12, 2003

Impact Hot Spot Mapping of the Temash River in Southern Belize. By, Jes Karper and Ed Boles, conducted from March to May, 2004. Submitted on August, 2004 to Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM).

Interim Report for SATIIM, Geologic and Soil Assessment, Sarstoon-Temash National Park. Prepared by: Brian Holland, Bob Johnston, and Neils Brorsen. August 25, 2003. Contact Person: Brian Holland, 10 Front Street, Punta Gorda, and Tel. 722 2477, [dolomite@btl.net](mailto:dolomite@btl.net) ,

Eco-Ethno Tourism Potentials Review of the Sarstoon Temash National Park and Buffer Communities: Prepared by: Iandi Consultants Limited, February 2005.

ICTI - Integrated Conservation Tourism Initiative for Belize: A Strategic Alliance of Conservation Partners. 2006 - 2010. Created for: Belize Audubon Society, Friends of Nature, Program for Belize, TIDT, SATIIM, Ya'axche' Conservation Trust. Created by: Neil Rogers and Mark Gruin, The Ecotourism Consulting Group, Varmado, Sweden and Hershey, Pennsylvania USA, June 2005.

Sarstoon-Temash National Park Boundary Survey Report: Prepared by F.T.S. November 23, 2005.

#### **E. National Park Regulations and the Management Plan Implemented and Enforced**

Surveyors Community to Clear Park Plan, Community too Erect Park Boundary Signs/Markers, Park Manager, Park Warden, Consultant to Train Park Warden/Manager, Field Equipment-Parabiologist/Park Warden, Park Manager

#### **F. Project Implemented Efficiently**

##### **Presentations:**

Reconciling Indigenous Peoples' needs in Biodiversity Conservation, Washington D.C, May 2004.

Indigenous Communities Watershed Management in Southern Belize, Miami, 2004, Grant Makers without Borders Annual Conference.

Bi-national Approval to Coastal Marine Reserve Management in Gulf Honduras, Miami, 2004, White Water TO Blue Water Conference.

##### **Reports**

SATIIM, First Quarter Report, October 1, 2002 - December 31, 2002, GEF-MSG-Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTIC).



SATHIM, Second Report, January 1, 2002 - March 31, 2003, GEF-MSG-Community managed Sarstoon-Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC)

SATHIM, Third Quarter Report, April 1, 2003 - June 30, 2003, GEF-MSG-Community managed Sarstoon-Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC)

SATHIM, First Year Technical Report, October 1, 2002 - September 30, 2003, GEF-MSP, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC).

SATHIM, Second Year First Quarter Technical Report, GEF-MSG, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC), October 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003

Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC), Annual Operating Plan 2003

SATHIM, No.2. Technical and Financial Progress Report, January - March 2004. Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC).

COMSTEC, No.3. Technical and Financial Progress Report for reporting period ending June 30, 2004 submitted to Juan Martinez, (Task Manager, World Bank) by Project Management Unit.

SATHIM, Summary of the COMSTEC

SATHIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC). Statement of source and use of funds, October - September 2003.

Estimated Schedule of GEF Grant Disbursement by Expenditure Category. October 1 2002 - September 30 2003.

GEF-BM, October 2002 - September 2003, Budget Overview, (COMSTEC).

SATHIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC). GEF Trust Fund TF051596, Statement of use of funds by project activity. Quarter ending September 30, 2003.

SATHIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC), GEF Trust Fund TF051596, Statement of the special Account, October 1, 2002 - September 30, 2003.

SATHIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC). GEF Trust Fund TF051596 Statement of sources and use of funds, quarter ending September 30, 2003.

SATHIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC). October 2003 - December 2003, Statement of source and use of funds.

Estimated Schedule of GEF Grant Disbursement by Expenditure Category. October 2003 - December 2003.

SATHIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC). GEF Trust Fund TF051596, Statement of use of funds by project activity, Quarter ending December 31, 2003.

SATIIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC). GEF Trust Fund TF051596, October 1 2002 - December 31 2003, Statement of the special Account.

SATIIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC). GEF Trust Fund TF051596, Statement of sources and user of funds, Quarter ending December 31, 2003.

SATIIM, Second Year First Quarter Technical Report, GEF-MSP, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC). October 1 2003 - December 31 2003.

SATIIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC), GEF Trust Fund TF Selection of Consultants.

SATIIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC), Statement of source and use of funds, January 2004 - March 2004.

SATIIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project, Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual, January - March 2004.

Estimated Schedule of GEF Grant Disbursement by Expenditure Category. January, 2004 - March 2004.

SATIIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC). GEF Trust Fund TF051596, Statement of use of funds by project activity, Quarter ending March 31, 2004.

SATIIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC). GEF Trust Fund TF051596, Statement of the special Account, January 1, 2004 - March 31, 2004.

SATIIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC). GEF Trust Fund TF051596, Statement of sources and use of funds, Quarter ending March 31, 2004.

SATIIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC). GEF Trust Fund TF051596, Statement of the special Account, April 1, 2004 to June 30, 2004.

Vehicle, Boat Investment, CB Radios, Office Equipment, Project Coordinator, Technical Coordinator, Accountant, Boat Captain, GIS DATA Analyst, Extension Worker, Office Equipment Servicing, Vehicle and Boat maintenance, Office Supplies, Staff Travel, Communication, Office Space, Utilities, Social Security Employer's Contribution, Bank Charges, External Auditors

SATIIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC). GEF Trust Fund TF051596, Statement of the special Account, July 1, 2004 to September 30, 2004.

SATIIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC). GEF Trust Fund TF051596, Statement of the special Account, October 1, 2004 to December 30, 2004.

SATIIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC). GEF Trust Fund TF051596, Statement of the special Account, January 1, 2005 to March 30, 2005.

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SATHIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (COMSTEC), Statement of source and use of funds, July 1, 2005 - September 30, 2005.

SATHIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project, Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual, April 1, 2004 - June 30, 2004.

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SATHIM, Community Managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project, Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual, July 1, 2005 - September 30, 2005.

Estimated Schedule of GEF Grant Disbursement by Expenditure Category. April 1, 2004 - June 30, 2004.

Estimated Schedule of GEF Grant Disbursement by Expenditure Category. July 1, 2004 - September 30, 2004.

Estimated Schedule of GEF Grant Disbursement by Expenditure Category. October 1, 2004 - December 30, 2004.

Estimated Schedule of GEF Grant Disbursement by Expenditure Category. January 1, 2005 - March 30, 2005.

Estimated Schedule of GEF Grant Disbursement by Expenditure Category. April 1, 2005 - June 30, 2005.

Estimated Schedule of GEF Grant Disbursement by Expenditure Category. July 1, 2005 - September 30, 2005.

**International Conferences to create awareness on the goals, mission of SATIIM**

*Reconciling Indigenous Peoples' needs in Biodiversity Conservation*, Gregory Choc, Washington D.C., May 2004.

*Indigenous Communities Watershed Management in Southern Belize*, Gregory Choc, Miami, 2004, Grant Makers without Borders Annual Conference.

*Reconciling Indigenous Peoples' needs in Biodiversity Conservation*, Gregory Choc, Chicago, 2004, Conservation International Board of Directors Annual meeting.

*Bi-national Coastal Marine Resources Management in the Gulf Honduras*, Gregory Choc, Miami, 2004, White Water to Blue Water Conference.

*Indigenous People and Park Management*, Gregory Choc, Belize City, 2005, National Forest Symposium

*Indigenous People Freshwater Management in southern Belize*, Gregory Choc New York, 2005, International Funders for Indigenous People Conference

*Indigenous People Freshwater Management in southern Belize*, Gregory Choc, Washington D.C., 2005, United States State Department

*Indigenous Peoples and Biodiversity in Southern Belize*, Gregory Choc, Brazil, 2005, Society for Conservation Biology Annual Conference.

*Indigenous Communities Watershed Management in Southern Belize*, Gregory Choc, San Lucas, Guatemala, 2005, International Forum on Freshwater

*Sarstoon Temash National Park Management Plan*, Selcun Chan, Belmopan, 2005, Ministry of Natural Resources Technical staff

*Indigenous People and Park Management*, Selcun Chan, Punta Gorda Town 2005, Indigenous peoples' delegation from Guyana

*Sarstoon Temash National Park Management Plan*, Selcun Chan, Punta Gorda Town, 2005, University of Belize

Community Land Mapping in Southern Belize, Selcun Chan, Wisconsin, 2005, College of the Minominee Nation

SATIIM's Research Priority, Lynette Gomez, Punta Gorda Town, 2005, Earth Watch Workshop