# INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION

**PROGRAM/ACTIVITY DATA:**

**Program/Activity Number:** TBD

**Country/Region:** Worldwide

**Program/Activity Title:**

Management for conservation and sustainable use of natural resources -- principally agricultural lands, forests, biodiversity, freshwater and marine ecosystems

**Funding Begin:** April 1, 2007 **Funding End,** April 1, 2012 **LOP Amount:** $ 2,031,610
**Sub-Activity Amount:** $NA

**IEE Prepared By:** Erik Streed Date: 2/28/07
Erik Streed

IEE Amendment (Y/N): __No__ If "yes", Filename & date of original IAA:

**ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED:** (Place X where applicable)

Categorical Exclusion: _____ Negative Determination: __X__
Positive Determination: _____ Deferral: _____

**ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS:** (Place X where applicable)

CONDITIONS ___Yes___ PVO/NGO: _____

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND REQUIRED MITIGATION MEASURES AND CONDITIONS:**
The defined tasks to be implemented under this PAPA include training, capacity building, technical assistance and institutional strengthening in forestry-related topics. These tasks do not include actual on-the-ground forestry activities such as tree planting, harvesting, road building, etc. However, these activities would be expected to inform and stimulate changes in how forest activities are conducted in partner countries. The USFS will promote technologies and training that encourage forestry activities that have less negative environmental impacts than would be expected under existing traditional practices. Therefore, any negative environmental impacts resulting from the activities covered under this PAPA will be addressed by improved technologies and practices – such as effective environmental impact assessment processes. However, the CTO of this PAPA will monitor activities completed under this agreement for compliance with USG and host country environmental regulations. To accomplish this, each task funded under this mechanism will include one of the following:

1. For activities that will not result in any environmental impact, such as conducting training courses and workshops, participating in forums and one-on-one negotiations, information gathering missions, etc., that are of the type that will not result in actions that could have a direct environmental impact (e.g. cutting trees, applying pesticides) no environmental review will be required.

2. For activities that include recommendations for activities that could result in some environmental impact (e.g.: providing TA on land-use strategies, forest management practices, silviculture recommendations, natural resource management options), recommendations made by USFS personnel will include an Initial Environmental Examination or Environmental Assessment under 22 CFR 216, or at least advise the mission/bureau that is funding the TA of the need to undertake such analysis for 22 CFR 216 compliance.

3. Any activity that could degrade natural tropical, temperate or boreal forests, including but not limited to any kind of tree harvesting activities, changes in land use, removing vegetative cover, applying pesticides, etc., will include, as part of the scope of work for the technical assistance, a briefing/recommendation to the funding mission/bureau, regarding the requirement to undertake a 22 CFR 216 Environmental Assessment. The USFS will provide expert advice on completing this USAID requirement, either through the use of USFS expertise, or with other resources.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:**

**Recommending a Negative Determination with Conditions**

EGAT/NRM
Office Director: CJ Elon Date: 4/19/07
CJ Elon

**Approving a Negative Determination with Conditions**

Acting EGAT Bureau
Environmental
Officer: Joyce A Jatko Date: 19 April 2007
Joyce A. Jatko

**CLEARANCES:**

General Counsel: _____ Date: _____
Judith Bailey, GC/EGAT

Cognizant Technical Officer: _____ Date: _____
Erik Streed, EGAT/NRM/F

EGAT/ESP: _____ Date: _____
James Hester

# INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION

**PROGRAM/ACTIVITY DATA:**
**Program/Activity Number: TBD**
**Country/Region: Worldwide**
**IEE for Activity Number: TBD**
**PAPA with the USDA Forest Service**

## 1.0 BACKGROUND AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### 1.1 Purpose and Scope of IEE

The U.S. Forest Service/Office of International Programs will provide program development and related services to directly address natural resource management, forestry and biodiversity conservation in developing countries. The USFS is the primary agency for forestry and related resource management in the United States and has a century of demonstrated, successful experience in: a) multiple-use management of 77 million hectares of public forests and rangelands; b) basic and applied research on nearly every aspect of forest and related natural resource management, products and utilization; and c) technical assistance to private landowners, local government entities and foreign governments. The services to be provided under this PAPA require cooperation for the supply of highly specialized technical assistance and training concerning urban, social and agro forestry in support of sustainable agriculture and biodiversity, participatory natural forest management, institution building, outreach and research, collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), climate change issues, remote sensing, including geographic information systems (GIS) and global positioning systems. The USFS also plays an important role through collaboration with international institutions to deliver comprehensive programs covering modeling, research, training and demonstration regarding climate change and biodiversity conservation issues.

This IEE anticipates the potential environmental impacts that could occur as a result of one or more of the tasks undertaken as part of this Agreement. It then identifies these impacts, estimates the potential for them to occur, and outlines steps that will be taken to minimize and mitigate these impacts.

### 1.2 Description of Activities

Activities provided under this Agreement will support sustainable agriculture, biodiversity protection, participatory forest management, institution building, outreach and research, collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), climate change issues, remote sensing, including geographic information systems (GIS) and global positioning systems. The USFS will collaborate with other USG agencies, host country governments, NGOs and international donors to deliver comprehensive programs covering modeling, research, training and demonstration regarding these issues.

## 2.0 COUNTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (BASELINE INFORMATION)

### 2.1 Locations Affected

This agreement will cover predetermined activities in Kenya, Ethiopia, Liberia, Tanzania, Brazil, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Russia, Jordan, Morocco, and Central American countries. Activities to be identified throughout the duration of this Agreement could take place in any USAID presence country.

### 2.2 National [or applicable] Environmental Policies and Procedures (of host country both for environmental assessment and pertaining to the sector)

Many countries have regulations pertaining to the forestry sector. Moreover, although not anticipated at this time, it is possible that some activities covered under the PAPA could fall under the Foreign Assistance Act, Part 1, and Section 118 – Tropical Forests, which states that any project funded by the USG that could

significantly affect tropical forests "takes full account of the environmental impacts of the proposed activities..." Specifically, FAA Section 118 (c)(14) denies assistance for: a) the procurement or use of logging equipment, unless a USAID Environmental Assessment indicates that all timber harvesting operations involved will be conducted in an environmentally sound manner which minimizes forest destruction and that the proposed activity will produce positive economic benefits and sustainable forest management systems; and b) actions which significantly degrade national parks or similar protected areas which contain tropical forests or introduce exotic plants or animals into such areas. FAA Section 118 (c)(15) denies assistance for the following activities unless a USAID Environmental Assessment indicates that the proposed activity will contribute significantly and directly to improving the livelihood of the rural poor and will be conducted in an environmentally sound manner which supports sustainable development: a) activities which would result in the conversion of forest lands to the rearing of livestock; b) the construction, upgrading, or maintenance of roads (including temporary haul roads for logging or other extractive industries) which pass through relatively undegraded forest lands; c) the colonization of forest lands; and d) the construction of dams or other water control structures which flood relatively undegraded forest lands. While not required by FAA section one 18, USAID will apply these same standards to all non tropical forest as well under this set of activities.

Consequently, the Cognizant Technical Officer (CTO) of this Agreement will monitor the activities funded under this Agreement, and identify activities that could result in degradation to natural tropical, temperate, or boreal forests. When such an activity is identified, the CTO will recommend that the specific funding entity (USAID missions/bureaus) that is funding the activity in question, conduct a USAID Environmental Assessment of the activity under 22 CFR 216 procedures before commencement. The environmental assessment shall be preceded by a scoping statement that is reviewed and approved by a USAID Bureau Environmental Officer. This process is laid out in 22 CFR 216.3 (a) (4). The Environmental Assessment shall be undertaken in accordance with the procedure outlined in 22 CFR 216.6 and approved by a Bureau Environmental Officer To the extent this project supplies technical experts to Missions to assist their designing forestry projects that fall under the definitions of Foreign Assistance Act section 118(c)(14) or (15), the TA teams will advise the Missions of the requirement to undertake a USAID-required Environmental Assessment and provide expert advice on completing this requirement as a mandatory element of the technical assistance.

## 3.0 EVALUATION OF PROJECT/PROGRAM ISSUES WITH RESPECT TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT POTENTIAL

Depending on how it is undertaken, forestry, writ large, can have many environmental and socio-economic impacts – both positive and negative. For example, the removal (thinning or harvest) of trees can result in an increase in soil erosion and waterway sedimentation, a decrease in biodiversity and wildlife habitat, a release of carbon to the atmosphere, lower soil fertility, a loss of income generating potential for local communities, etc. And the planting of trees can result in an improvement in these same criteria. The purpose of the activities covered in this Agreement are to minimize the negative impacts of forestry, and maximize the positive benefits. Therefore, this Agreement is not expected to encourage activities that will result in negative environmental impacts. Nevertheless, the following table outlines potential adverse effects on the environment that could conceivably occur as an indirect result of this agreement. The table also identifies the mitigation measures to be taken to provide assurance that these effects do not occur. When an environmental assessment is undertaken, baselines will be established from which to evaluate the following criteria.

**Table 1**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Potential Adverse Effect #1: Forest degradation from unsustainable harvesting practices – see indicators below.** | **Mitigation Measures: See specific and general specific measures below; these will be done within the educational, technical assistance, research, and policy framework of the activity.** |
| Indicators:<br>• Damage to remaining trees<br>• Erosion along skid trails and logging roads<br>• Trees cut but not removed from forest<br>• Poor regeneration of key species for wood or non-wood products | Specific:<br>• Enhance training in reduced-impact logging and forest management staff<br>• Train and field additional para-technicians from farmer community to advise peers<br>General:<br>• Examine micro- and macroeconomics of sustainable forest management to ensure proper incentives for investments<br>• Routinely revise forest management plans and review monitoring records |
| **Potential Adverse Effect #2. Increased threats to endangered species or biodiversity assets** | **Mitigation Measures: See specific and general specific measures below; these will be done within the educational, technical assistance, research, and policy framework of the activity.** |
| Indicators:<br>• Changes observed in composition of flora and fauna | • Review the basic forest management plan and ensure that proper prescriptions are in place<br>• Increase training in the local community about conservation rights and responsibilities |
| **Potential Adverse Effect #3: Soil degradation through erosion, compaction and a reduction of organic inputs** | **Mitigation Measures: See specific and general specific measures below; these will be done within the educational, technical assistance, research, and policy framework of the activity.** |
| Indicators:<br>Changes observed in depth of topsoil, organic matter content | • Review the basic forest management plan and ensure that proper prescriptions are in place<br>• Increase training in the logging industry about erosion control methods, road building techniques, low impact logging technologies |

## 4.0 RECOMMENDED THRESHOLD DECISIONS AND MITIGATION ACTIONS (INCLUDING MONITORING AND EVALUATION)

### 4.1 Recommended Threshold Decisions and Conditions

Negative Determination with Conditions

### 4.2 Mitigation Measures and Monitoring

See Table 1

**5.0 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS** (copy also onto Face Page)

The defined tasks to be implemented under this PAPA include training, capacity building, technical assistance and institutional strengthening in forestry-related topics. These tasks do not include actual on-the-ground forestry activities such as tree planting, harvesting, road building, etc. However, these activities would be expected to inform and stimulate changes in how forest activities are conducted in partner countries. The USFS will promote technologies and training that encourage forestry activities that have less negative environmental impacts than would be expected under traditional practices. Therefore, any negative environmental impacts resulting from the activities covered under this PAPA will be addressed by improved technologies and practices – such as effective environmental impact assessment processes. However, the CTO of this PAPA will monitor activities completed under this agreement for compliance with USG and host country environmental regulations. To accomplish this, each task funded under this mechanism will include one of the following:

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5. For activities that include recommendations for activities that could result in some environmental impact (e.g.: providing TA on land-use strategies, forest management practices, silviculture recommendations, natural resource management options), recommendations made by USFS personnel will include an Initial Environmental Examination or Environmental Assessment under 22 CFR 216, or at least advise the mission/bureau that is funding the TA of the need to undertake such analysis for 22 CFR 216 compliance.

6. Any activity that could degrade natural tropical, temperate or boreal forests, including but not limited to any kind of tree harvesting activities, changes in land use, removing vegetative cover, applying pesticides, etc., will include, as part of the scope of work for the technical assistance, a briefing/recommendation to the funding mission/bureau, regarding the requirement to undertake a 22 CFR 216 Environmental Assessment. The USFS will provide expert advice on completing this USAID requirement, either through the use of USFS expertise, or with other resources.

ATTACHMENT: (See Program Description)