

## ***Initial Environmental Examination (IEE)***

*and/or*

*Request for a Negative Determination with Conditions*

### **Program/Activity Data**

**Program/Project Title:**

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

**Program/Project Number:** AEG-T-00-07-00003-00

**Project Country (ies):** Global.

**Funding Period:**

This agreement was initiated in April of 2007, and is anticipated to close in April of 2012. However, the specific activities funded in this Amendment to the original agreement, are expected to be implemented in fiscal year 2008

IEE amendment:    yes  No  if yes, what is the date of original IEE: April 19, 2007

IEE prepared by:    Erik Streed, EGAT/NRM

Date: September 6, 2007

### **Environmental Action Recommended**

Categorical Exclusion \_\_\_\_\_ Negative Determination \_\_\_\_\_

Positive Determination \_\_\_\_\_ Negative Determination w/ Conditions

Deferral \_\_\_\_\_

### **Summary of Findings and Recommended Threshold Decision**

EGAT/NRM recommends a negative determination with conditions for the activities that will be funded through this Amendment to the PAPA with the U.S. Forest Service. We anticipate that these funds will not be used to implement physical activities on-the-ground such as logging road construction tree planting, etc. Therefore, this funding is not expected to result in negative environment impacts. However, as a way to mitigate potential impacts that could occur indirectly from the training and capacity building resulting from these tasks, there is a process for mitigating these potential impacts, as outlined in Section 4.2 of the IEE

Recommended by: Timothy Miller, Acting NRM Office Director

Date: 9/24/07

Concurrence:

Joyce A. Jatko, EGAT BEO

Date: 9/24/07

Clearances:

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## **Initial Environmental Examination (IEE)**

### **1. Background and Activity/Program Description**

#### **1.1 Purpose and Scope of IEE**

EGAT manages a Participatory Agency Program Agreement (PAPA) between USAID EGAT and the USDA Forest Service-Office of International Programs. This IEE covers new activities funded under amendment one of the PAPA with the U.S. Forest Service. However, the IEE for the original the PAPA, established in April of 2007, also covers activities under this agreement. The new activities funded under this agreement are similar to the scope of the activities described in original IEE.

#### **1.2 Background**

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 amendment. It then identifies these impacts, estimates the potential for them to be negative, neutral, or positive, and outlines steps that will be taken to minimize and mitigate potentially negative impacts.

#### **1.3 Description of Activities**

The tasks to be implemented under this PAPA amendment include training, capacity building, technical assistance and institutional strengthening in forestry-related topics. All of these activities are included within the scope of the original program for which this agreement was designed, and which were assessed for potential environmental impacts under the original IEE that accompanied this agreement. This new amendment (amendment # 1) to the original agreement provides new funding for the program, and expands the program to include several new countries.

## **2. Country and Environmental Information (Baseline Information)**

### **2.1 Locations Affected**

Specific countries planning activities with funds from this amendment include Madagascar, Liberia, Kenya, Jamaica, Bolivia, Mexico, Brazil, Russia, India, Albania and potentially other USAID presence countries.

### **2.2 National/Host Country Environmental Policies and Procedures (if applicable).**

Activities that are regularly implemented under this agreement, such as trainings technical assistance, capacity building, etc., are not typically regulated by a government entity. However, when applicable, the U.S. Forest Service does obtain required permits and licenses before implementing the project.

## **3. Evaluation of Environmental Impact Potential**

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, improve forest management policies, etc.

## **4. Recommended threshold decisions and mitigation actions (including monitoring and evaluation)**

### **4.1 Recommended Threshold Decisions and Conditions**

Negative Determination with Conditions

### **4.2 Mitigation, Monitoring and Evaluation**

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:

- a) 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.
- b) 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.

- c) 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.