

INFORME FINAL DE TERMINACIÓN DEL PROYECTO

I. DATOS BÁSICOS

Nombre de la Organización: Conservation International

Título del Proyecto: *Support for the Guatemala Debt for Nature Swap*

Socios Involucrados en la Implementación del Proyecto: USAID, CONAP, TNC, ARNPG

Fechas de Implementación del Proyecto: 1 Septiembre 2006 – 31 Diciembre 2008

Fecha de Informe (Mes/Año): 9 de Marzo del 2009

II. COMENTARIOS INICIALES

Incluya cualquier comentario inicial que pueda ayudar en la revisión de este informe.

The support that the CEPF provided to CI – Guatemala was key in ensuring that the Debt Swap between Guatemala and the US Government was signed. This Debt Swap will help to ensure long term sustainability to investments in Laguna del Tigre National Park, Sierra de Lacandon National Park, Sierra de las Minas Biosphere Reserve and Sierra de los Cuchumatanes.

CI has played a key role in the establishment of the Oversight Committee and the development of the instruments for the management of the funds. Our CEPF formats were used as a base for the proposal format and the evaluation scorecards.

III. LOGRO DEL PROPÓSITO DEL PROYECTO

Propósito del Proyecto: *Support a mechanism for sustainable financing over the next ten years to promote conservation in Guatemalan KBA's of priority to CEPF in Guatemala.*

The Guatemala Debt Swap ensured funding for 4 priority KBA's in Guatemala for the next 15 years. The mechanism will ensure that every year, funding supports conservation and sustainable development activities in these priority areas. Between 2006 and 2008, an Oversight Committee (integrated by USAID, CONAP, TNC, CI and ARNPG) was established, an administrator was found (FCG) and the key strategic and administrative tools were developed, including the strategic plan, project cycle, revision scorecards and reporting formats and contracts. The first cycle of projects was implemented between 2007 and 2008; during this first call for proposals, the developed tools were evaluated and improved, and we are currently developing an analysis per area in order to develop a second call for proposals with concrete guidelines for possible grantees. During the first call for proposals, 7 projects were awarded to grantees from 4 priority areas, for a total investment of \$1,608,446.06.

Until December, 2008, a total of \$5,059,009.90 have been deposited in the Guatemala Debt Swap account; from those, \$1,145,454.48 have been designated for the Endowment, \$458,579.36 have been used for administration, and \$3,454,976.06 are available for donations.

Desempeño Planificado versus Desempeño Real

Indicador	Real a la Finalización
Nivel del Propósito: Support a mechanism for sustainable financing over the next ten years to promote conservation in Guatemalan KBA's of priority to CEPF in Guatemala.	
1. \$ 24 million secured from the debt swap to support conservation in Guatemala for the next 10 years.	\$24 Million have been secured through the signing of the FCA between the US and the Guatemala Government. Now, the payment from the Guatemalan Government goes to an account administrated by the FCG and supervised by the Oversight Committee and this money will be invested in conservation projects in the priority sites in Guatemala, for the next 15 years.
2. An endowment for protected areas established and capitalized with at least \$ 2.1 in five years	The Endowment for protected areas have been established and \$1,145,454.48 have deposited in the account.
3. Number of CEPF priority KBA's achieving their management targets with support of the TFCA.	The Guatemala Debt Swap prioritized 5 KBA's for investments: Sierra de Lacandon, Laguna del Tigre, Sierra de las Minas and Sierra de los Cuchumatanes and the Volcanic Chain. The following areas are currently receiving support: Sierra de Lacandon, Sierra de los Cuchumatanes, Sierra de las Minas, Guatemalan Caribbean and the Volcanic Chain.
4. Number of Hectares under improved management with TFCA funding.	Currently, there are 7 projects under implementation. These projects are helping improve management of 240,824.10 hectares from the selected sites.

Describe el éxito del proyecto en términos de lograr su meta pretendida de impacto y los indicadores de desempeño.

We consider that we achieved all expected conservation targets successfully. The Oversight Committee members and FCG staff have worked hard to ensure that the needed tools were developed for the operation of the cycle of projects. Currently, 5 KBA's are receiving support for the improved management of the areas and we expect to publish the second call for proposals during the next 6 months.

¿Hubo algún impacto inesperado (positivo o negativo)?

Impacts of the project have been all positive. There is already the interest of the Guatemala Government to apply for another debt swap with the US Government, and a possibility of another one with the German Government, that would be focused on climate change.

IV. RESULTADOS DEL PROYECTO

Resultados del Proyecto: *Incluya los resultados e indicadores del proyecto proveniente del Marco Lógico para el proyecto.*

Desempeño Planificado versus Desempeño Real

Indicador	Real a la Finalización
Resultado 1: TFCA Grants Program established and functioning.	
1.1 Key steps towards establishing and maintaining the functionality of the Oversight Committee.	The needed steps to establish the Oversight Committee were implemented, including the selection of the 5 th member. Ordinary and extraordinary meetings have been organized according to the need. Carlos Rodriguez was selected as President of the Committee in 2006, and in November 2008, the members asked him to continue for an additional two years period as president; he has played a key role to ensure that the OC advances rapidly.
1.2 Key steps towards establishing and maintaining the functionality of the Evaluation Committee.	During the first cycle of projects, an announcement in papers was published, inviting professionals to participate as members of the Evaluation Committee. Different professionals presented their interest and from those, a group was selected for the revision of the proposals. It was a group that included people with different expertise; therefore, they were able to provide valuable input while reviewing the proposals. The FCG developed the tools for the proposals revision process, so each proposal was reviewed by more than 1 evaluator, ensuring that different opinions were taken into account to evaluate each proposal. Final decision on proposal approval was made by the Oversight Committee.
1.3 Key steps towards establishing and maintaining grant making operation.	The FCG has hired the needed staff to ensure the appropriate operation. They have also developed (with the support of the OC), the cycle of projects, that includes proposal and report formats, the evaluation tools and currently, they are developing the monitoring system. Now, with 7 projects under implementation, tools have proven to be useful and have been improved in order to have a second cycle of projects soon ready.
1.4 Key steps towards establishing and implementing a monitoring and evaluation system.	The FCG has developed a draft monitoring and evaluation system. Given that currently the Technical Commission is conducting an analysis per priority area, in order to identify specific targets and indicators for each area. These indicators will be then incorporated to the monitoring and evaluation system.
Resultado 2: Endowment for the protected areas of Guatemala established and capitalized.	
2.1 An account for the endowment will be established during the first year of the project.	The endowment account was established in September, 2008 and by the end of the project, a total of \$1,145,454.48 have deposited in the account.
2.2 By the end of the project, a minimum of two project proposals will have been presented to potential	The OC established communications with the Conservation Stewards Program in 2008 in order to explore the opportunities to collaborate. The OC

donors in order to capitalize the endowment.	liked the concept of the Conservation Agreements and negotiations will continue. Also, the Guatemalan Government has expressed interest to ask another debt swap with the US Government and another one with the German Government. The OC would propose to continue using this already established mechanism, therefore, it would complement efforts already underway.
Resultado 3: Grants to improve management in CEPF's five targeted KBA's identified, reviewed, funded, implemented and monitored.	
3.1 Number of KBA's submitting at least one proposal for TFCA funding consideration directed toward achieving their management targets.	During the first call for proposals, a total of 106 proposals were received, from different partners from priority KBA's.
3.2 Number of KBA's receiving TFCA grants in order to achieve CEPF management targets.	The Guatemala Debt Swap prioritized 5 KBA's for investments: Sierra de Lacandon, Laguna del Tigre, Sierra de las Minas and Sierra de los Cuchumatanes and the Volcanic Chain. The following areas are currently receiving support: Sierra de Lacandon, Sierra de los Cuchumatanes, Sierra de las Minas, Guatemalan Caribbean and the Volcanic Chain.
3.3 Percent of funding available for conservation projects awarded to benefit the five priority KBA's.	A total of \$1,600,080 was awarded during the first call for proposals. From those, 700,000 are supporting directly CEPF priority KBA's; this amount represents a 44% of the total awarded during the first call for proposals.

Describe el éxito del proyecto en términos de entregar los resultados pretendidos.

The project was successful and completed all the expected results. The Oversight Committee was established and has been working with the FCG in order to design and implement the Grants Program; the first cycle of projects have been completed and 7 projects are currently under implementation by our partners. We are happy to say that the debt swap is now providing funding to priority KBA's in Guatemala, including Sierra de Lacandon, Sierra de los Cuchumatanes and Sierra de las Minas Biosphere Reserve; this funding will provide financial sustainability to CEPF investments in the country. The Endowment has also been established and now the Oversight Committee is looking for ways to capitalize it.

¿Hubo algún resultado no logrado? De ser así, ¿cómo ha afectado esto al impacto general del proyecto?

All expected results were accomplished.

V. EVALUACIONES DE LA POLÍTICA DE SEGURIDAD

Ofrezca un resumen de la ejecución de cualquier acción requerida dirigida hacia las políticas de seguridad ambientales y sociales dentro del proyecto.

VI. LECCIONES APRENDIDAS DEL PROYECTO

Describe cualquier lección aprendida durante las varias fases del proyecto. Considere las lecciones tanto para los proyectos futuros, como para el desempeño futuro del CEPF.

We have learned many lessons from this process, the following are among the most important:

- Public access to information is important in order to ensure that partners, potential partners and stakeholders understand the process and the decisions made by the Oversight Committee. That is why we have all the official documents in the web page.
- It is very important to ensure participation of different sectors (governments, NGO's, universities, civil society) in the proposal revision process, to ensure that the different interests and opinions are taken into consideration.
- Establishment of an endowment might take longer than expected because of the revisions needed by lawyers from each of the organizations, to ensure that all FCA requirements are met.
- Although the FCA provides a list of 26 priorities, this list is still too long. In order to provide clear guidelines to potential grantees, the OC needs to prioritize the priorities before the II call for proposals, so they can have a clearer idea of the type of proposals that are being expected.
- The capacity of Guatemalan groups to develop and prepare a project proposal is low. But also, many groups don't fill the administrative requirements in order to manage over \$100,000; the alternative that will be explored and discussed by the OC is either the establishment of a small grants program or the collaboration with an organization with experience in providing small grants to local groups.
- The TFCA mechanism is a way to provide sustainability to CEPF and other investments in the country because it can be focused on strategic areas for conservation.
- Being Carlos Rodriguez the Chair of the OC has implied a lot more of his time than what was originally planned. In future projects, this needs to be considered and partial salary for the person needs to be included.

Proceso de Diseño del Proyecto: (aspectos del diseño del proyecto que contribuyeron a su éxito o fracaso.)

The Project included the priority components that helped ensure that the Grant Program and the Endowment were established. All the needed activities that supported the success of the project were considered in the project.

Ejecución del Proyecto: (aspectos del diseño del proyecto que contribuyeron a su éxito o fracaso.)

The fact that Carlos Rodriguez was President of the OC for two years and his ability to successfully coordinate a complex process, was important to ensure that the Oversight Committee, the Evaluation Committee, the cycle of projects, were ready for the first call for proposals during the first year after the signing of the Debt Swap.

This being a collaborative project, where government and NGO's participate with a long term vision, it has been very important that the Oversight Committee members have years of experience in different areas in the country, and that they have had an attitude of collaboration and always look for consensus in the decision making process, that has helped make the best decisions for the implementation of the FCA in the country.

VII. FINANCIAMIENTO ADICIONAL

Proveer detalles de donantes adicionales que apoyaron este proyecto y de financiamiento recibido como resultado de la donación de CEPF o el éxito del proyecto.

Donante	Tipo de Financiamiento*	Cantidad en USD	Comentarios
Moore Foundation	A	\$ 700,000	
TNC	A	\$ 1,000.00	

***Financiamiento adicional debe reportarse según las siguientes categorías:**

- A** *Co-financiamiento de proyecto (Otros donantes contribuyan directamente a los gastos del proyecto con CEPF).*
- B** *Financiamiento complementario (Otros donantes contribuyan a organizaciones y agencias socias quienes están implementando un proyecto relacionado con este proyecto con CEPF).*
- C** *Apalancamiento de la Organización o Socios (Otros donantes contribuyan a su organización o una organización socia como resultado directo de éxitos de este proyecto con CEPF).*
- D** *Apalancamiento Regional (Otros donantes inviertan grandes cifras en una región debido a la inversión de CEPF o éxitos relacionados a este proyecto con CEPF).*

VIII. COMENTARIOS Y RECOMENDACIONES ADICIONALES

We would make the following recommendations:

- Any partner implementing a similar project should consider that the initial phase for the establishment of the mechanisms and tools for the functioning of the FCA is a time consuming effort and should consider including partial time for the staff.
- In this region, there is still a lack of capacities related to project proposal development, and some organizations do not fill administrative requirements. Therefore, it is advisable to explore ways to support smaller organizations and to strengthen them.

VIII. COMPARTIENDO INFORMACIÓN

CEPF tiene como objetivo compartir experiencias, lecciones aprendidas y resultados entre las organizaciones recipientes de nuestras donaciones y las comunidades de conservación y donantes más amplias. Una manera de lograr este objetivo es poniendo el texto de los informes finales de terminación de proyecto disponibles desde nuestra página Web: www.cepf.net, y incluyendo estos informes en nuestro boletín electrónico y otras comunicaciones.

Para obtener más información sobre este proyecto, favor de comunicarse con:

Nombre: Carlos Rodriguez

Dirección Postal: 1ª. Calle, 17-96 Zona 15, Vista Hermosa II

Tel: 502 – 2385 - 7059

Fax: 502 – 2385 - 7059

E-mail: c.rodriguez@conservation.org