

***Title: Conservation of the Lachuà National Park and its buffer zones.
Intermediate evaluation, final version, IUCN/INAB, September 1999.***

Evaluation Team: external

Year: 1999

organisations and people's active participation, and improved local living conditions

IUCN area of specialisation: Protected Areas

Geographical area: Guatemala

Donors: Netherlands (DGIS) through IUCN and the Government of Guatemala through the National Forest Institute (INAB)

Overall project cost: US\$194,800 (national contribution) and US\$ 1,957,664 (international contribution) over five years

Type of evaluation: Midterm Evaluation

Objectives of evaluation:

- Review project achievements relative to expected goals, results and indicators;
- Review and evaluate the goals, the strategy for project implementation and assigned resources;
- Evaluate the relationships between actors/stakeholders involved in the project (IUCN, INAB, Foundation Solar, Netherlands Embassy);
- Evaluate the quality and relevance of project reports.

Methodology: Review of project documents, biannual reports and publications. Visits, interviews, meetings with key people and institutions involved in the project. SWOT analysis exercise done with staff project.

Findings:

- 1) ***Relevance:*** The evaluation confirms the importance of Lachuà National Park because of its natural richness and biodiversity and its location within a fragile area requiring greater attention and involvement from local organisations.
- 2) ***Strategy:*** The project's mission lacks an integrated strategy that enables the technical team to take into consideration the community's real needs in reaching the objectives. The initial diagnosis included baseline studies that could have helped the development of a participatory planning process. The planning process of the Park master plan was initiated too late and made the consultation process with communities difficult. For this reason, the project did not contribute to communities' socio-economic sustainability.
- 3) ***Performance:*** The project's administration was adequate, but monitoring and technical support did not meet the project's needs. The project did not achieve the results initially expected in the project document. Too few provisions were made to use external and specialised consultants resulting in an overworked technical team. Some of the local partners working with community development were inappropriate.

Recommendations:

- 1) Due to the importance of Lachuà National Park, the project should be completed. If the Government of the Netherlands enters a second phase, it should be prepared to monitor the remainder of the project closely for a high level of national engagement, high quality outputs, strong supervision by IUCN-ORMA and contribute to secure land tenure and sustainable development in the buffer zones.
- 2) IUCN-ORMA should increase its technical support and presence in the area to better orient the project team in all aspects related to participation and strategic intervention.
- 3) The project should quickly refocus its intervention strategy within the communities, adjust the logical framework's indicators to the project environment, and define partnerships with other stakeholders in order to reinforce the projects' efficiency and avoid duplication within

the area. The project should emphasise the lessons learned from an institutional, technical and social point of view in order to take appropriate action to overcome obstacles within the communities.

- 4) The evaluation committee should carefully analyse the project's niche to determine the best institutional context to ensure the conservation and the biodiversity protection of Lachuà National Park as well as the upholding of the forest reserve.

Language of evaluation: Spanish

Available from: IUCN HQ, IUCN/ORMA