

***Title: Sustainable use of resources in the Pacific Coast mangroves of Guatemala: Evaluation Report, January 2000.***

***Evaluation Team:*** External and independent team

***Year:*** 2000

***Objectives of the project:***

- Contribute to the conservation, protection and rehabilitation of the mangroves of the Pacific Coast of Guatemala;
- Contribute to the social, cultural and economic development of coastal communities

***IUCN area of specialization:*** Marine and Coastal areas

***Geographical area:*** Guatemala,

***Donors:*** European Union through IUCN and National Forest Institute (INAB)

***Type of evaluation:*** Mid-term Evaluation

***Objectives of evaluation:***

To make recommendations and suggestions for reorienting the project:

- Examine the extent to which the institutional structure supported by the project is appropriate and ensures sustainability
- Analyse the sustainability of techniques used for exploiting the natural resources identified by the project
- Analyse the project relevance, impact, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, implementation strategies, and internal organization of the project

***Evaluation questions:***

- 1) To what extent has the project objectives met its objectives?
- 2) Is the project contributing to the conservation and protection of the mangroves on the Pacific Coast of Guatemala as well as helping to rehabilitate existing damaged areas?
- 3) Is the project contributing to the economic, social and cultural development of the coastal communities
- 4) Was the project relevant to the problems of mangroves in Guatemala (general objectives, specific objectives, means, results and activities)?

***Methodology:***

The team reviewed project documents and the Logical Framework; interviewed national and local authorities, organizations, technicians and stakeholders; and visited fourteen project sites.

***Findings:***

- 1) *Organization and management:* The project's activities were quite diverse and dispersed considering the available human resources. The project reached its objectives but at great cost. The project prepared and published a regulation governing the exploitation of mangroves. The strength of the project lies in the positive relationship between the project and the coastal communities resulting from a cautious selection of leaders in each area.
- 2) *Effectiveness and efficiency:* The project has achieved half of its objectives and used less than 40 percent of the allocated resources.
- 3) *Strategy:* The intervention strategy (selection of pilot communities, collaboration with national institutions and private landowners, intervention in protected areas) is appropriate but lacks in a clearly designed monitoring system and inventories of areas recovered or to be recovered.
- 4) *Impact:* Considering the time left for completion, the project appears to have failed to single out the mechanisms for effective protection and sustainable management of mangroves or other associated species.

***Recommendations:***

- 1) Considering that the project will end in less than one year, the project should focus on the activities that will produce the expected results (conservation and sustainable management of mangroves) in the initially identified pilot areas.

- 2) Optimize the use of project resources. The project should adopt a budget for the programs and results, and assign the required resources to each result. The project should create a revolving fund that will guarantee the continuity and sustainability of activities, negotiate with the EU the possibility of reprogramming financial resources in order to prolong activities without incurring additional costs, with the balance to be carried over to the revolving fund.
- 3) Increase the number of studies on environmental problems affecting mangrove's ecosystems and neighboring communities and develop a plan to rehabilitate damaged mangrove areas.

***Language of evaluation:*** Spanish

***Available from:*** IUCN HQ, IUCN/ORMA