

17A. Centralamerican Program of Environmental Management Modernisation (PROSIGA)

General Objective

This project clearly points to a better management of natural resources with the porpoise to a sustainable development and with a special emphasis in human development of woman and men from diverse ethnic groups in the central American region.

Specific Objectives

The principal project orientation points to the obtainance of their aims through the improvement of the management environmental quality in matter of emissions, flows and waste, and the foment clean production in a compatible way with the gain to adequate levels of competitively of national and regional economies.

Antecedents and justification

Historically the subjects related with biodiversity and protection have been better importance in Central American environmental agenda, whereas the subjects related with production and contamination occupied a lower importance. In consequence, the legal and management aspect related with these themes that present an important delay.

To fill this vacuum, the Central American Committee of Environmental and Development (CCAD) executed, during 1999, with the support of the Real Embassy of the Netherlands in Costa Rica, the project named Integrated Systems of Management and Environmental Quality (SIGA). This project, aplicated in Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica, had the purpose to make a quick diagnostics to the juridical, institutional and normative situation of environmental management in the studies countries in matter of air contamination, superficial and underground water contamination, solid waste contamination and pesticides use.

The project determined the normative and the instrumental lacks to clarify methods and processes, and to identify asymmetries in the management systems in force in the studies countries. This, indeed, detected those causes of the environmental impairments originated in contaminating production process.

Based in the diagnostics, was elaborate a Regional Program with the participation of the same actors that included the seven countries of CCAD, with a temporal horizon of four years. Thus, the Central American Program of Environmental Management Modernisation was approved for the Minister Council of CCAD realised in Panama City.

In light of the new politics of gender equity approved by the CCAD, have been consider the necessity to incorporate some recommendations in the document, likewise the principles of equity, equality and social justice was totally incorporate.

PROSIGA pretends to attack the lacks detected and porpoise the basic principles of a new model of equitable management that promote a satisfactory equilibrium between production and environment, in a way that, without lose sight of the economic and social development of the region, grew the environmental quality, with the warranty of protective and sustainable use of natural resources.

In virtue of the vast of the tasks and the resources required for the implementation of PROSIGA, the CCAD have designed an strategy that procures to amount efforts to a diverse co-operation and multisectorial organisms in one unique action strategy for the modernisation of the environmental management systems in Central America.

Consequently this project points to:

1. To contribute to the modernisation of national structures of environmental management quality, straightening the director entities, eliminating duplicities, decentralising structures, improving horizontal co-ordination mechanisms, perfecting their strategic management capability and securing that their actions will incorporate the transversal focus of gender equity.
2. To support the decentralisation process integrating local governments in a co-ordinated and plannificated way, recovering their regulatory capability for the environmental quality.
3. To contribute to the improvement and development of direct regulations skills for the prevention and control of contamination.
4. To complement the direct environmental regulations with the economic instruments of management, looking for the identification of environmental costs and benefits generated in the economic activity.
5. To impulse betterment in the environmental working of economic agents through the equitable participation of men and women from different ethnic groups.
6. To harmonise and to integrate politics, goals, and environmental management systems in a regional scale, through the concentrated action of governments in the frame of Centr American integrating mechanisms in the environmental field.
7. To promote initiatives of self-regulation and self-cumplishment and to create a favourable political climate to this initiatives
8. To encourage the innovation and the implementation to clean production practices, compatibles with economical growth, competitively and improvement of environmental quality in the region

Moreover, in a regional level, to promote an adequate climate of facilities for the development of impresarial process in the aim of generating a behaviour change toward the self-regulation with volunteer self-cumplishment.

Waited results

With the execution of this projects will be gained an adequate harmonisation of focus and politics for the decreasing of contamination, in regional level, and the homogenisation of environmental management. Not only in the juridical-institutional field but also in the regulatory instrumentation with clear gender perspective.

Besides, it will be fomented and development the utilisation to clean production practices, compatibles with economical growth, gaining the competitively of the industries and improvement the environmental quality in the region, thanks to, previously it will be created a favourable climate for self-regulation with volunteer self-coumplishment. Also, it will exist mechanisms for environmental regarding (environmental prizes) for those men and women whom foment the implementation of self-regulation plans in the Central American industrial sector. Furthermore, it will be a regional system of environmental accreditation, that incorporate the indicators and parameters of gender equity.

In the other hand, it will be incentivated the necessarily modernisation and restructuration of environmental management entities, through the delimitation and ordination to competencies, the availability of institutional co-ordination mechanisms, delimitation of functions and competencies for local governments, availability and application of pilot programs for the designing of strategic plans for the municipal environmental management, politics and norms, accord with the national and regional legal system, citizen participation politics and, in all levels, with the equitative participation of men and women.

Costs and financial requirements (US \$)

Cost 11.745,802

Financial requirements 11.745,802
(External, non returnable)

Execution of the project

Advance level: In phase of negotiations for the financial requirements

Estimate duration: Four years

Probably starts date: January 2001

Execution organisms:

Regional level: General Direction of Environment of SICA and CCAD

National level: National Environmental authorities

Observations:

PROSIGA have been conceived for the contribution to the gradual process of institutional evolution, procuring the political, technical and economical integration between governments, impresarials, social organisations, and men and women individually considered.

PROSIGA pretends to generate a new culture of equitable environmental management putting the accent in the preventive actions. For that, it pourpose to improve and to amplify the spectrum of existent management instruments, that permit the evaluation and ex ante classification of public and private initiatives with potential negative impacts, like Environmental Impact Studies, environmental auditors and landing ordering. Although, PROSIGA points to the search of environmental quality goals in economic and fiscal mechanisms, the foment of productive efficiency through the technologic innovation, energetic efficiency and the reduction of prime material consumption and waste production, and to promote the self-regulation with the environmental management.

References

PROSIGA counts with a \$3000000 initial financial support pre-approved by the Real Embassy of the Netherlands in Costa Rica.

Approved by the Minister Council of CCA in the 25th September meeting