

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund**

First Meeting of the Donor Council  
World Bank Headquarters, Washington, DC  
(14 December 2000)

**Ecosystem Profiles**

Three ecosystem profiles covering ecosystems within the biodiversity hotspots of Tropical Andes, Guinean Forests, and Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands have been prepared for review and approval by the first meeting of the Donor Council. In accordance with the Financing Agreement between CI and the IBRD, each profile was submitted for staff review within the IBRD and GEF, for review by select members of STAP and for endorsement by respective GEF national focal points. Status of the profiles is as follows:

1. The three profiles were submitted to the IBRD and GEF for staff review on 20 November 2000. A meeting was held with IBRD and GEF on 6 December to discuss the profiles, and written comments were received from the GEF on 7 December and from the IBRD on 8 December 2000. These comments are attached along with a written response from CI. Although several comments have already been included in revised ecosystem profiles for the three regions (attached), some comments require additional consultation before appropriate amendments can be prepared. In view of the short time available, these comments will be incorporated into the profiles after the first meeting of the Donor Council.
2. Drs. Hernan Torres and Peter Ashton were selected from the STAP roster for external review of the ecosystem profiles. Dr. Torres provided comments on the Ecosystem Profile for Vilcabamba-Amboro in time for the first meeting of the Donor Council. These comments, which are self-explanatory and do not require a response, are attached. A response from Dr. Ashton has not yet been received. Any amendments to the ecosystem profiles that might be required on the basis of comments from the second STAP reviewer will be incorporated after the first meeting of the Donor Council.
3. The ecosystem profiles were submitted in their entirety for endorsement by the GEF national focal points in the countries concerned (i.e., Peru, Bolivia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, and Madagascar). The following endorsements were received prior to the first meeting of the Donor Council: Peru, Bolivia, Ghana, and Madagascar. These documents are attached.

Liberia has recently acceded to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and we are awaiting confirmation from the Secretariat to the Convention that the accession has been approved.