



MINISTERIO DEL AMBIENTE Y ENERGÍA
Dirección General de Cooperación Internacional

San José, June 5th, 2002
DCI/00123-2002

Mr. Gonzalo Castro
Environment Department
The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433
United States

Reference: *Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund*

Dear Mr. Castro:

As the GEF Focal Point for the Government of Costa Rica I would like to inform you that I endorse the investment strategy outlined in the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) **The Southern Region of the Mesoamerican Biodiversity HotSpot**, and the provision of grants to non-governmental and private sector organizations for projects and activities that fulfill the programmatic objectives outlined therein. As an additional provision, we have already reached an agreement with CEPF in order to fully guarantee the necessary synergies among the initiatives to be derived from the project and the main strategic objectives of our Ministry.

We are aware that information relative to all specific projects can be accessed on the CEPF web site www.cepf.net, and we look forward to receiving annual listings of projects and activities conducted within Costa Rica. We also understand that each of the donors (Conservation International, GEF, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank) has provided equal funding to the CEPF Initiative.

In providing this endorsement, we confirm that **The Southern Region of the Mesoamerican Biodiversity HotSpot** has been shared with the officials responsible for the Convention on Biological Diversity, and has undergone review in our country. We note that it will be submitted for further review and approval by the CEPF Donor Council, and that provision of funding for activities outlined in the Ecosystem Profile will be contingent upon approval by the CEPF Donor Council. We agree that the Ecosystem Profile may be made publicly available after review and approval by the Donor Council

Sincerely,

Ricardo Ulate Chacón
Director



cc: D. Ocker – CEPF
M.Zador-CEPF
M. Ramírez – CI, fax 253 4963

