

**Report for the European Commission on the project entitled  
“The Development of Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary and  
Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary as centers for Co-management of  
Protected Areas”**

**1.0 Title Page:**

**Project Title:** “The Development of Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary and Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary as Centers for Co-management of Protected Areas”

**Project number:** B7-6200/99-10/ENV/DEV

**Region/Country:** ACP Region/Belize

**Type of Report:** Second Year Intermediate Technical Report, October 2001 – September 2002

**Name of Beneficiary:** CBWS and CTWS buffer communities

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**Date:** September 2002

## 2.0 Table of Abbreviations

<b>BAS</b>	Belize Audubon Society
<b>BELTRAIDE</b>	Belize Trade and Investment Development Service
<b>BEST</b>	Belize Enterprise for Sustainable Technology
<b>CBWS</b>	Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary
<b>CEO</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>CLO</b>	Community Liaison Officer
<b>CTWS</b>	Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary
<b>DFC</b>	Development Finance Corporation
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GOB</b>	Government of Belize
<b>IICA</b>	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
<b>LAC</b>	Local Advisory Committee
<b>MoA</b>	Ministry of Agriculture
<b>NAS</b>	National Audubon Society
<b>OWCNERR</b>	Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve
<b>PACT</b>	Protected Areas Conservation Trust
<b>PfB</b>	Programme for Belize
<b>QADS</b>	Quality Assurance and Development Service
<b>RAC</b>	Regional Advisory Committee
<b>TAC</b>	Technical Advisory Committee
<b>TOR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>UB</b>	University of Belize
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>USA</b>	United States of America

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## 4.0 Project Summary:

### BELIZE-EUROPEAN UNION COOPERATION PROJECT SHEET

<b>BELIZE – EU COOPERATION PROJECT DATA SHEET</b>	<b>UPDATED</b>	<b>September 2002</b>
<b>The Development of Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary and Crooked Tree wildlife Sanctuary as centers for Co-Management of Protected Areas</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>In operation</b>

#### A. Project Information

1.	<b>Project Number</b>	<b>B7-6200/99-10/ENV-DEV</b>
2.	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>The Development of Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary and Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary as centers for Co-management of protected areas.</b>
3.	<b>Concentration and/or Thematic Area</b>	<b>Watershed and Wetlands conservation through sustainable management (Environment in Developing Countries Budget Line)</b>
4.	<b>Total Project Budget in EURO</b>	<b>ECU \$1,619,770.00</b>
5.	<b>EC contribution and in % of total project cost Source of EC funding</b>	<b>80% of total project cost ECU \$1,302,690.00 B7-6200 (Environment in Developing Countries Budget Line)</b>
6.	<b>Other co-financing institutions</b>	<b>Belize Audubon Society (BAS) \$317,080.00 (20%)</b>
7.	<b>Financing Agreement number: Date of signature: Period of validity: Date of expiration:</b>	<b>Ref. B7-6200/99-10 31/12/99 April 2000 – March 2003 March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2003</b>
8.	<b>Target population/beneficiaries</b>	<b>CBWS and CTWS buffer communities</b>
9.	<b>Starting event  Effective starting date:</b>	<b>Recruitment of Project staff  April 2000</b>
10.	<b>Estimated project duration Works: TA: Total duration:</b>	<b>Three years (36 months)</b>
11.	<b>Contracting authority: Supervisor:</b>	<b>European Commission, Unit AIDCOF/4 Mr. Mathieu Bousquet</b>
12.	<b>Executing Agency Contractor or Agency in charge of daily operation and management</b>	<b>Belize Audubon Society</b>
13.	<b>Technical Assistance provided by:</b>	
14.	<b>Overall objectives</b>	<b>To involve relevant stakeholders in ecosystem's management to promote biodiversity and ecological integrity through sustainable development activities.</b>
15.	<b>Project purpose</b>	<b>Establish Co-management and Capacity systems with communities using socio-economic incentives with a view to contribute to biological diversity and ecological integrity.</b>
16.	<b>Expected results</b>	<b>1.A relevant and effective co-management structure for CBWS and CTWS is established. 2.Demonstration projects encourage community members in establishment of ecologically and economically viable activities (in-situ, ex-situ). 3.Community members are continuously trained as resources managers</b>

		<p>and trainers in order to increase the human resource capacity to implement the National Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>4.BAS' capacity to provide technical assistance to communities, effectively manage other protected areas and contribute to the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy is increased.</p> <p>5.BAS and other national educational institutions' strengthen their capacity to provide natural resource management training to communities.</p> <p>6.Stakeholders increase awareness of ecosystems value and adopt values and attitudes that promote sustainable development.</p>
17.	Main activities	<p>1.Creation and implementation of comprehensive long-term co-management plans for CBWS and CTWS.</p> <p>2.Establishment of ecologically viable economic demonstration projects (in-situ, ex-situ)</p> <p>3.Establishment of natural resource management training facilities at both sites.</p> <p>4.Collaboration with national educational institutions to establish training programmes.</p> <p>5.Development and implementation of pilot monitoring and enforcement schemes.</p> <p>6.Development and implementation of participatory public awareness and education for sustainability programme.</p>
18.	<p><b>Monitoring and Execution Arrangements:</b></p> <p><b>Reporting Requirements:</b></p> <p><b>Audit:</b></p> <p><b>Reviews: mid-term and final review, mid-term and ex-post evaluation</b></p> <p><b>Evaluation:</b></p>	<p>Objectively verifiable indicators (OVI) and sources of verification</p> <p>Every 6 months (1 – page project update sheet)</p> <p>Every 12 months (intermediate reports)</p> <p>End of project (a comprehensive report)</p> <p>Yearly audit to be submitted in April</p> <p>Open for independent mid-term and final review by the EC</p>

## B. Project implementation

1.	<p><b>Global Financial situation in Euro</b></p> <p><b>Commitment: amount and date</b></p> <p><b>Disbursement: amount and date</b></p>	<p>December 1999 - \$1,302,690.00 EC</p> <p>December 1999 - \$ 317,080.00 BAS</p> <p>March 2000 - \$347,384.00</p>
2.	<p><b>Specific financial situation</b></p> <p><b>Commitments:</b></p> <p><b>Disbursements:</b></p> <p><b>Balance of advance or imprest account:</b></p>	<p>\$1,302,690.00</p> <p>\$347,384.00</p> <p>\$955,306.00</p>
3.	<p><b>Progress of implementation</b></p> <p><b>Summarized status of activities:</b></p>	<p>Signed: December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1999</p> <p>Duration: Three years</p> <p>Activity 1: The LAC's are functional at both project sites and the RAC in the south is being established. The Ministry of Natural Resources has accepted the National Framework for Management Plans; however the BAS is awaiting response from the Forestry Department on how to proceed.</p> <p>Activity 2: The nut processing plant has been completed, the beekeepers are being organized in time for the honey season and the craft shop is completed and fully functional.</p>

		<p><b>Activity 3:</b>The training facility at CBWS is still operational and the training/interpretive facility at CTWS is 50% complete.</p> <p><b>Activity 4:</b> A training component completed in collaboration with the University of Belize.</p> <p><b>Activity 5:</b> In the discussion phase with the University of Belize and other International organizations to develop the pilot monitoring and enforcement schemes.</p> <p><b>Activity 6:</b> This program is ongoing.</p>
4.	<p><b>Intermediary/expected results</b>  <b>Describe stage of achievement:</b></p>	<p><b>Result 1: 45%</b>  <b>Result 2: 50%</b>  <b>Result 3: 75%</b>  <b>Result 4: 35%</b>  <b>Result 5: 20%</b>  <b>Result 6: 80%</b></p>
5.	<p><b>Status of M&amp;E Arrangements</b>  <b>Reports:</b>  <b>Audit:</b>  <b>Reviews:</b>  <b>Evaluation:</b></p>	<p>Submitted 3 project sheets, 1 Intermediate Technical Report  4<sup>th</sup> Project Sheet is being submitted with this 2<sup>nd</sup> Intermediate Report  Submitted 1 audit  2<sup>nd</sup> year audit is being submitted with the 2<sup>nd</sup> year technical report</p>
6.	<p><b>Issues and Problems encountered</b></p>	<p>1. Community members have relocated to other parts of the country.  2. Project coordinator has changed twice in the last six months and a new CLO has been hired.  2. There is some tension among the project staff, as the European Commission has not yet approved the proposed extension to the project.</p>
7.	<p><b>Proposed/Agreed Action to be undertaken</b></p>	<p>1. Identify young committed leaders within the communities who demonstrate loyalty and dedication to the development and growth of their communities.  2. Allow the new project staff to familiarize themselves with the project documents, partner organizations and building of relationships with the communities.  3. Continue dialogue with the European commission office in Brussels to clarify any issues regarding the proposed project extension and keep the staff informed of the progress.</p>

## **5.0 Summary (of current report):**

Over the past year, the Belize Audubon Society faced and overcame several challenges while working toward the project's overall objective of ensuring that the biological diversity and ecological integrity of Belize's ecosystems are protected, sustained and restored. The activities implemented within this year were aimed at increasing people's participation in the sustainable development of the country's natural resources by alleviating the misconception about the importance of ecosystem's function, creating economic alternatives and getting rid of the feelings of isolation.

Much of this year was spent strengthening relationships that already existed and establishing new relationships with individuals within the buffer communities. This was essential to the longevity of the project, as the project coordinator changed twice within a six-month period and the position of the community liaison officer was revisited. The communities were wary of the change, as the transition was unexpected. Once the trust was established the project staff was able to revive the Local Advisory Committees (LAC) within the CBWS and CTWS buffer communities and began facilitating the formation of the Regional Advisory Committees (RAC). To date, the RAC of CBWS has already been formed and will become a registered entity in year three of the project.

As a follow-up to year one, the community received several trainings, which included training in tourism and in proposal writing. The training programs were geared toward equipping the communities with tools for self-sustainability. In addition to the training opportunities a couple community members participated in regional exchange programs focused at building regional networks.

During the second year, three demonstration projects namely, the Cashew Cooperative of CTWS, the Honey Cooperative and the Maya Center Women's Group are successfully operating with two of the three groups already registered with the relevant government departments and the third scheduled to register early next year.

The water quality monitoring and enforcement programs are being developed in collaboration with the University of Belize (UB). BAS has also explored the possibility of collaborating with the Protected Areas Conservation Trust in the development of these programs. PACT has expressed interest and is willing to work with BAS in developing these programs on a national level. This year staff received training in the areas of monitoring, environmental education and advocacy.

The education program was extremely busy during the year establishing a cadre of environmental educators, building relationship with international partners, establishing linkages with the formal education sector, mailing educational materials to all primary and secondary schools nationwide, promoting the use of conservation carnival kits, working on exhibits at the CTWS visitor center, working on a design for the construction of a new and improved visitor center at CBWS and preparing brochures for the protected areas.

## **6.0 General Context**

There has been great political tension surrounding the stability of the country's dollar and the government's ability to adequately manage the country's resources. With an election year approaching, the government is focusing all its efforts into the promotion of local markets and tourism as a means of enhancing people's livelihoods. Since the country's greatest foreign income earner is tourism there has been a rigorous campaign to increase the visibility of Belize as an Eco-tourism destination. Even though the "September 11<sup>th</sup> bombing of the World Trade Centers" has affected one component of the tourism industry, Cruise Ship tourism has tripled within year two of this project. The government continues to advocate for investments in tourism but makes no mention of the much-needed investment in infrastructure and more importantly human resources. Various entrepreneurs do not understand the industry and are in need of immediate training. Presently, the country is not able to meet the needs of this booming industry. However, with the obvious increase in tourists and the need for more marketable destinations, communities are focusing on developing tourism-based projects. Currently, the communities of Crooked Tree, Maypen, Biscayne, Maya Center, Maya Mopan and Georgetown are interested in tourism-based activities. BAS has been able to provide tourism-based training to the buffer communities of Crooked Tree and Maya Center; however, more training is needed. Because of the local situation, it will be difficult to convince communities that tourism-based activities may not be the most feasible projects to undertake.

The unemployment rate within rural communities is high and few are interested in becoming entrepreneurs. This has forced several community members from the various buffer communities to relocate to urban areas. In several cases, those individuals who have relocated have been active participants in the community leadership trainings and in the LACs.

Recently, the United Nations Development Program/Global Environmental Facility (UNDP/GEF) conducted an external evaluation of the Co-management Project implemented by PACT. It identified several critical barriers to that project, some of which affect all organizations involved in some level of co-management. The barriers included the lack of capacity of the Forest Department, inadequate policies to govern co-management agreements, and lack of a formal management plan review process.

At the end of this reporting period, the Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Industry had approved a National Management Plan Framework. It will be a requirement for all organizations involved in management of protected lands to utilize that framework in preparing their management plans. BAS decided to wait for a formal response from the Ministry before proceeding with the preparation of its management plans for the CBWS and the CTWS.

## 7.0 Enumeration of the project's objectives

Although the project covers two pilot sites, Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary and Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, the purpose is singular: establish co-management and capacity systems with communities using socioeconomic incentives with a view of contributing to biological diversity and ecological integrity. Biodiversity and ecological integrity also encompass the social dimension because human resources are an essential component of a healthy environment and its effective management. This will be accomplished by involving relevant stakeholders in ecosystems' management to promote biological diversity and ecological integrity through sustainable development activities.

## 8.0 Implementation/Activities/Results

### 8.1 Co-Management Structure:

At the end of the community leadership-training program, the project staff felt that the community members who successfully completed the program were ready to make the next step in the co-management process. They were focused and very excited, as they saw direct benefits from participating in the training program and the co-management project. (*See annex A for photographs of the leadership training graduation and participants' comments*) Through the advocacy component of the training program, the communities in the north (buffer communities of Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary) were able to meet with their local area representative to lobby for basic needs within their relevant communities.

The buffer community of Gardenia was able to successfully lobby for the construction of a Multi-purpose building that would serve as a crucial meeting place for the community. This building would also serve as a shelter in the event of a hurricane. (*See annex B for photographs of the Gardenia village multipurpose building*) The community of Crooked Tree lobbied and now have proper directional signs installed on the highway. (*See annex C for photographs of the Crooked Tree village signs*) In the south, (buffer communities of Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary) the communities of Georgetown and Maya Mopan were able to successfully lobby the Government of Belize (GOB) for the installation of a long awaited water system.

As a direct result of the micro-enterprise component of the training, participants made independent efforts to develop their micro-enterprise plans and applied for loans. Nine small businesses received funds from BEST, and in a cascade effect, an additional 21 individuals outside of the training group, also applied for and received small loans. All of these businesses are still functioning.

Although 90% of the participants successfully completed the leadership-training program, it soon became evident that internal conflicts still existed within the communities and that those conflicts had to be resolved before the proposed model could be tested. For this reason, much of the second year was spent working with the Local Advisory Committees (LAC). More consultations and many meetings occurred within the buffer communities of CBWS (Maya Center, Maya Mopan, Georgetown, San Pablo, and Red Bank) and CTWS (Crooked Tree Village, Biscayne, Gardenia, Maypen and Lemonal) in an effort to reemphasize the nature and objectives of the Co-management project and to clarify the terms of reference (TOR) for the LAC and the RAC. During this process, it became very clear that the TOR could not be the same for the LAC and the RAC. Although very similar responsibilities applied to both committees it needed to be stated that the RAC would serve as the committee to liaise with both the BAS and the various LACs. Since BAS would not be able to meet with all the LACs all the time, the RAC will function as an integral component of the co-management structure if the model is to function as it was intended. Therefore, after consultation with the communities, the TOR for the RAC was revised. (*See Annex D for Terms of reference for the LAC and the revised TOR for the RAC*)

To date, one RAC has been developed and is actively functioning (the RAC for CBWS). Although the group is not yet registered, it has been meeting on a regular basis to address a serious need of all the buffer communities of the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary. This resulted from a proposal-writing workshop, which focused on equipping the buffer communities of CBWS and CTWS with the adequate tools for self-sustainability. After the workshop, the group decided to use their newly acquired skills to address the desperate need for a proper centrally located garbage disposal site. They saw their present situation as a negative impact on the environment and a health hazard and have been working closely with the relevant village councils, the Department of the Environment, the Ministry of Works, the Lands Department, the Cooperatives Department, potential funders and the BAS to develop a well-designed project proposal. The group has identified the location of the landfill and is eager to move forward with the proposal. The group is scheduled to register early next year.

As a result of the administrative changes that occurred within the second year of implementation (change in Project Coordinator twice and the change in the CLO) the senior management staff of the BAS and the Board of Directors have guided the implementation of the Project. The TAC will be reactivated during the next year of implementation and the TOR will be revisited to incorporate more technical expertise.

With the revised TAC, the management plans can be developed, since the Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Industry has accepted the Management Planning Framework that was developed in collaboration with the PACT Co-management project. BAS played an integral role in the development

of this framework by providing technical assistance to the PACT Co-management project by participating in workshops that lead to the design of the framework. *(See annex E for letter from the PACT Co-management Project Manager and the Management Planning Framework)* It was decided that the management plans would be developed after there was an official response to the proposed planning framework, in an effort to satisfy the requirements of the Ministry of Natural Resources and more specifically the Protected Areas Program of the Forest Department. The Project Coordinators of both BAS and PACT Co-management project met with the Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Industry to discuss the need for the Management Planning Framework and to ask his support and endorsement for the proposed framework.

#### Community leaders participate in regional exchange programs

During this year, a couple community members got the opportunity to participate in regional exchange programs. The treasurer of the Crooked Tree Village Council, the Community Liaison Officer and the Project Coordinator attended a two-day Co-management seminar in Costa Rica. The seminar was entitled “VI Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation – Local communities’ participation in the management of protected areas and the conservation of biodiversity”. The objective of the seminar was to create a space for discussion and reflection on the subject of Co-management of Protected Areas in the Mesoamerican region and the Caribbean. The seminar was the first of its kind, as it included all the Central American countries as well as Mexico. It highlighted the similarities and the differences currently being experienced and the need for more dialogue within the region. The community member that participated returned with renewed energy after hearing first hand that Belize was far ahead in terms of incorporating communities at some level of protected areas management. This information was shared with the various communities as well as the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT). *(See annex F for report forwarded to PACT and the published report of the congress).*

The Chairperson of the Maypen village council, the Community Liaison Officer and the Project Coordinator also traveled to Guatemala during this year. The objective of the visit was to allow the community representative the opportunity to experience tourism in other countries and compare them to tourism in Belize while making tourism contacts. This was in an effort to ensure that the development process is sustained beyond the life of the project. The team of three was able to visit and meet with several groups involved in management of various types of protected areas. The community member was able to make contact with many of the artisans from throughout the area as well as he was able to learn about their local artisans craft making techniques and marketing strategies. He also got a good feel for the level of product and enterprise development occurring in the region and the great need for product diversification in Belize. *(See annex G for report on Guatemala trip)*

## **8.2 Economic Demonstration Projects:**

### Cashew Cooperative:

Upon completion of the cashew cooperative project proposal, the Ministry of Agriculture presented it to the Cabinet for their review and approval. (*See annex H for project proposal*) The proposal was discussed at length and was approved with GOB being a major contributor of the project. A stipulation of the approval was that a steering committee be established to oversee the formation and functions of the Cashew Cooperative. The following organizations were appointed by GOB to serve on the Steering Committee – the Min. of Agriculture, Beltraide, IICA, DFC, SFBB, and BAS. The next step was to meet with the communities and inform them of the project’s approval and the stipulation by GOB. The communities agreed to the stipulation and proceeded to elect the executive body of the cooperative. The following members were elected to the

Executive:

- Wayne Moody – Chairperson
- Matt Mariano – Vice Chairperson
- Tanya Crawford – Secretary
- Francis Arnold – Treasurer
- Bernard Casanova- Executive member
- Dorothy Bradley – Public relations officer
- Joan Arana – Public relations officer

After the election, the group registered at the Registry Department as the Belize Cashew Producers Cooperative Society Ltd. (*See annex I for copy of Cooperative’s registration*). Since the official registration of the cooperative, they have been meeting on a monthly basis to discuss the construction of the factory, the acquisition of the machinery and equipment and the technical training. At the same time, BAS contracted an independent consultant to carry out the feasibility studies for several of the demonstration projects. The consultant spent most of her time focusing on the cashew cooperative, as it was very difficult to obtain “real” figures from the relevant agencies (Min. of Agriculture and IICA). The results of the feasibility study indicated that, “the project had marginal feasibility – due to high labour costs, and low returns on the equipment costs.” When this was presented to the steering committee, they indicated that the figures used in the study had to be reviewed, as the project was certainly feasible. This then became the responsibility of IICA.

To date, the land where the factory is to be located has been acquired from GOB in the Sand Hill Village, as agreed upon earlier. The land was then cleared and prepped for construction of the factory; however, there were some delays on the part of the Ministry of Agriculture in releasing the funds to commence construction of the factory. The cooperative was then informed that the initial amount GOB committed to the development of the cooperative was being significantly reduced. After some lobbying from the BAS and IICA, the Ministry

of Agriculture released the first trench to start construction of the factory floor. Since then, the remainder of the funds has been released and the factory is almost complete and ready for the purchase of machinery and equipment. (*See annex J for photographs of the factory*)

It was agreed that the machinery and equipment will be purchased from El Salvador, as the members of the cashew cooperative and the technical expert who visited the cashew processing plant in El Salvador believed that the machinery and equipment observed on their visit would adequately satisfy the needs of Belize's cooperative, as it would be the most appropriate technology. The visit was very successful, as several members of the cooperative observed how a processing plant should operate and the various technologies available for the processing of cashew. They also got a good introduction to the marketing and administration of the cooperative and its product. (*See annex K for photographs of the site visit to the cashew plant in El Salvador*)

Although several members visited the plant, plans are being made to train those who will be operating and maintaining the machinery in the plant. The cooperative is at the stage of negotiating when the machinery is to arrive in Belize and when the training will occur. The cooperative members have also received technical training in the area of orchard management, fertilization and pruning. IICA has identified the need for technical training in the production of the false fruit (jams, jelly, wine and stew cashew) and is in the process of contracting an international consultant to conduct the training. The Cooperative has been asked to organize the number of members interested in participating in training.

As stated in the project proposal for the cooperative, several members have already received small loans from the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) for the expansion and improvement of their orchards while others are in the process of applying for loans. The factory is expected to be fully operational and producing both the nut and the false fruit (jams, jelly, wines and stew cashew) by the next cashew season – May 2003.

#### Honey Cooperative:

As with all the demonstration projects, a feasibility study was conducted for the Honey cooperative looking at its economic and environmental feasibility. The results of this feasibility study indicated that the honey cooperative was feasible and was therefore recommended. Since the group in Maya Mopan were already involved in some level of honey production the BAS focused on the organization of the cooperative and provision of technical assistance. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the cooperatives department and IICA, training was provided in the area of cooperatives formation, operation and legal requirements. Although the group was actively producing honey it was not yet registered. The group is scheduled to elect the executive officers of the cooperative in the second quarter of the third year of implementation and registration of the cooperative will follow in order to complete the formalization process.

The beekeeping project, which is integral to the success of the honey cooperative, is being managed by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA); however, this has caused some delays in the project, as the MoA lacks the needed resources. For this reason, the BAS is considering contracting a third party (BEST) with the business and honey expertise to assist and regularly liaise with the members of the cooperative. The members are willing to commit the time needed, as BAS has already provided the overalls, smokers, wax, hives and other equipment for the production of the honey.

The BAS was able to acquire some hives with bees for the cooperative through the MoA; however, the bees supplied were weak and inadequate for honey production. Therefore, the BAS renegotiated with the Ministry to replace the bees that were inadequate. To date, the bees have been replaced and are now producing honey.

Throughout the year, festivals and expos are held to promote locally produced products. This year BAS participated in two expos and used the opportunity to display the products being produced by both the Cashew Cooperative and the Honey Cooperative. As a result, the honey cooperative has made contact with a very successful honey producer/exporter in the north of the country (Orange Walk District) who is interested in purchasing honey from the Maya Mopan Honey cooperative. The cooperative is excited about the idea but will need more information on the production requirements for honey exportation before they can enter into an agreement with the producer/exporter in the north. BEST, if contracted will assist in this regard.

#### Maya Center Crafts:

The feasibility study indicated that the craft production was definitely feasible, as it was already a profitable enterprise, as stipulated in the accounting records of the Maya Center Women's Group. The group has been working closely with the BAS for many years and has grown considerably since the community leadership trainings. The group identified the construction of a new craft shop, as integral to their continued success and committed approximately 25% of the total funding needed for its construction. With tourism on the increase and the need for improved presentation of their crafts the group in collaboration with BAS developed plans that met all their needs. Several contractors were provided with the plans for the building and were asked to submit bids. The best contractor was selected based on cost and expertise. *(See annex L for copies of the cost estimates for the construction of the Maya Center craft shop and the contract signed with the contractor)* Construction of the building commenced shortly after the signing of the contract. During the construction, the Women's group requested some changes to the structure, which had financial implications. Both the contractor and the BAS agreed to the changes under the condition that the Women's group would cover the additional expenses. As a result, the Maya

Center women's group increased their total financial contribution to approximately 50% of the total cost of the new Craft Shop. The new Maya Center Women's Group Craft Shop was completed in September of this year and is now ready for business. (*See annex M for photographs of the new Maya Center Craft Shop*) The inauguration of the new Craft Shop is scheduled for October 2002.

During the construction of the building, the BAS was in communication with BEST regarding training in areas of pricing and diversification of products. Since the building is completed, the BEST is exploring the possibility of providing this training to at least 25 members of the group and is incorporating a component that would link them to several tour operators in the southern region of the country.

#### Alternative Livelihood Exchange Program:

Through BAS's continuous effort to liaise with similar projects throughout the country, four community members from the buffer communities of CBWS were able to participate in an Alternative Livelihood Exchange study tour implemented by Programme for Belize (PfB). BAS covered a portion of the participant's expenses while PfB contributed the remainder. The objective of the study tour was as follows:

- ✓ To share experiences and lessons learnt from community projects associated with the Northern Biological corridors;
- ✓ To expose the participants to alternative livelihood opportunities being carried out in Central and Northern Belize, including communities that participated in the Northern Belize Biological Corridors Project;
- ✓ To encourage the communities to explore and to get involved in alternative livelihood activities that were compatible with the biological corridors concept.

The study tour visited sustainable development activities taking place in the north such as non-timber furniture project, broom production, preserves and products from traditional fruits, honey production, arts and crafts, traditional medicine and community-based eco-tourism projects. The participants were encouraged to engage in sustainable livelihood activities that can generate income for their families and communities while protecting the biodiversity in the protected areas and the biological corridors of Belize. At the end of the study tour, the participants all agreed that they would make a presentation to their respective groups and communities on the experience and lessons learnt. (*See annex N for Report of the alternative Livelihood Exchange*)

### **8.3 Resource Management Training:**

After the initial discussions with the relevant Administrations of the tertiary level institutions and PACT, it was decided that the implementation of such a program

would be best during the third year of the co-management project. PACT has continuously expressed interest and support for the development of a national Natural Resource Management Training Program. During this year, the BAS did ground work in discussing the upcoming training program with its community members and building their interest and support. This training is scheduled for the second quarter of the third year of implementation.

#### **8.4 Monitoring and Enforcement:**

##### Staff and Community Exchange Program:

The exchange program with the Old Woman Creek Estuarine Research Reserve (OWCNERR) of Huron, Ohio expanded this year to incorporate two staff members (Co-management coordinator and Protected Areas Program Director) of the Belize Audubon Society and two community members (Principal of Biscayne Government School and Principal of Crooked Tree Government School) from the buffer communities of Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary.

Last year, the two staff members that participated in the exchange program were introduced to water-quality monitoring, bird monitoring and census and enforcement techniques. Based on their experience, it was evident that the monitoring and enforcement trainings needed to be comprehensive and was therefore deferred to the third year of implementation. During this year's visit, all four participants were introduced to the monitoring and enforcement techniques. The community members indicated that the schools would be able to participate in the water quality monitoring provided they were supplied with the adequate training and equipment. The project coordinator was provided with the technical information regarding the type of tests needed to conduct water quality monitoring and the equipment to conduct those tests. The project coordinator has since entered into an agreement with the University of Belize (UB) to design and conduct the water quality-monitoring program for CTWS. This is scheduled to commence in the first quarter of next year and will expand to include the relevant buffer communities.

The enforcement training is also scheduled for next year, as the community members identified to participate in the training indicated then to be the most appropriate time for them. It was decided that the training program would be comprehensive encompassing non-lethal weapons training, legislative training and radio communications training.

#### **8.5 BAS Strengthening:**

##### Crooked Tree Visitor/Resource Center:

The center at CTWS was in need of significant upgrade of the interpretive displays. During the year, the visitor center was renovated to include a

“boardwalk” exhibit as well as other exhibits. This was completed with the assistance of a professional artist from the USA who resides in the buffer community of Crooked Tree. In partnership with a local educator and the Education coordinator, the artist developed a visually stimulating interpretive center that houses interactive exhibits. The exhibits are intended to inform visitors of the biological diversity and ecological importance of the Crooked Tree wetlands. The exhibits also features linkages between culture and the environment in Crooked Tree, community involvement in the activities of the wildlife sanctuary, and actions to promote the protection of the sanctuary. Several resource materials have been purchased, such as books on the local flora and fauna, which are being housed in the newly renovated Visitor Center. To date, there are reports of high levels of visitation by schools within the buffer communities. *(See annex O for photographs of the renovated Visitor Center at CTWS)*

#### Cockscomb Basin Visitor/Resource Center:

The Education coordinator and the Project Coordinator visited several National Audubon centers in Florida. This was through the ongoing relationship with NAS to develop a new visitor center at CBWS. NAS has been working closely with BAS in the development of a new visitor center that would adequately meet the needs of a growing tourism industry as well as the need for adequate interpretive exhibits. Since the visit, the Education coordinator has established a development committee to assist in the formation of the plans for the visitor center. *(See annex P for Report on the Visit to NAS centers and the minutes of the Development committee meeting)*

#### Staffing:

After the first year of implementation, it was decided that the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) had to be separate from the Park Directors, as the level of work involved meant that one of the functions suffered at the cost of the other. Since both functions are crucial to the overall management of the protected area, a CLO was hired to deal specifically with the issues of the buffer communities. This has been very effective and continues to provide the adequate support to the project coordinator. It will be necessary to hire an additional CLO to work with only the buffer communities of CTWS, while the present CLO continues to work with only the buffer communities of CBWS. *(See annex Q for Job description of the CLO)*

The Project coordinator changed twice within a six-month period, which meant that the project staff changed and they had to familiarize themselves with the project and the communities. This was difficult, as the familiarization had to be done simultaneously with the implementation of project activities. The fact that the European commission closed its office in Belize and changed staff twice in Brussels within year two of this project made the transition more complex. However, the Project staff executed the activities in the work plan on schedule.

Through participation in the Co-management Seminar in Costa Rica, the Project coordinator is hopeful that there will soon be a regional network established for the sharing of ideas and dialogue on issues relating to Co-management in the region.

#### Warden Training:

During the second year, the wardens have received training in the areas of education, advocacy and wildlife monitoring. The education training was geared at providing the field staff with the adequate tools to prepare their educational outreach programs, their school presentations and proper usage of the Education for sustainability kits. The objectives of the Educational training entitled “BAS Field Educators” were as follows:

- ✓ To inform Field Educators about effective teaching and learning styles
- ✓ To help Field Educators prepare effective presentations for their schools outreach program
- ✓ To develop a mechanism for coordination of the Field Education team

*(See annex R for photographs of the training and a copy of the facilitator’s power point presentation)*

The advocacy training focused on the identification of issues/problems affecting the protected areas and the necessary steps to develop an advocacy campaign to address the problems identified. The monitoring training, on the other hand focused on the recording of wildlife sighting, animal track identification and the recording of any changes to the flora. A comprehensive monitoring program is scheduled for early next year.

### **8.6 Education for Sustainability:**

During year two, the education program was extremely busy establishing a cadre of environmental educators, building relationship with international partners, establishing linkages with the formal education sector, mailing educational materials to all primary and secondary schools nationwide, promoting the use of conservation carnival kits, working on exhibits at the CTWS and printing brochures. *(See annex S for copies of the Park Brochures)*

#### Community Leaders as Educator Training Program:

More than 50 community leaders and teachers completed BAS’, “*Community Leaders as Educators*” training program. The purpose of the workshop was to equip community leaders and teachers with the skills and knowledge to educate other community members and students about issues relating to environmental conservation and sustainable development. This involved an exploration of the following:

- ✓ Formal, non-formal and informal education

- ✓ Different methods for different target groups
- ✓ 'Concrete' vs. 'Conceptual' learning
- ✓ Language (appropriate use, and first language vs. English)
- ✓ Lively presentations/using visual aids
- ✓ Plays, skits, role play, dance, art as media for education
- ✓ Knowing and understanding your target group
- ✓ Measuring learning in non-formal education
- ✓ Organizing a workshop

Each of the community leaders received a copy of BAS *Environmental Agenda 2002 and Beyond* an analysis of the state of the Belizean environment. The cadre of community educators that received this training will now be able to work closely with BAS on community-based environmental education initiatives. (*See annex T for photographs of the Community Leaders as Educators Training Program*)

Partnership with Old Woman Creek Estuarine Research Reserve:

BAS has continued to strengthen its relationship with Education personnel of the Old Woman Creek Estuarine Research Reserve (OWCNERR) in Ohio. In consultation with BAS, OWCNERR has developed an educational kit on songbirds and a display on migratory birds, which is being used at the CTWS. The Park Director and a Park Warden participated in an educational visit to Ohio, where they were exposed to different approaches to environmental education on wetland themes. Personnel from Ohio subsequently visited the CTWS where they undertook educational visits to schools from buffer zone communities. Children from the partner communities have established a pen pal relationship and have been exchanging letters on a regular basis. (*See annex U for photographs of the Educational and Songbirds displays*)

Development of Education for Sustainability Kits:

The Biodiversity and Ecosystems trunks containing a range of colorful and interactive teaching aids were completed and put to use. In January 2002, a workshop was organized for teachers from the buffer communities of all BAS' protected areas, in order to train them in the use of the educational kits. BAS' Park Directors and Park Wardens were also invited to attend. The workshop covered principles of environmental education, education for sustainability, an introduction to schoolyard ecology, and how to use the BAS trunk. (*See annex V for photographs of the Workshop on Use of the Educational Kits*) The procedure for borrowing the trunks was also covered, with an emphasis on careful handling of the items. The interest and enthusiasm for this type of training activity was evident in the high participation rate. Over 40 teachers and BAS staff attended the one-day session although only 30 participants had been invited. The post-workshop evaluations also indicated a high level of satisfaction with the activity and a desire to further strengthen the relationship with BAS.

### Special Educational Events at the Protected Areas:

BAS celebrated World Wetlands Day along with the schoolchildren of Crooked Tree village on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the CTWS. Over 30 children were introduced to wetlands through visual displays and a presentation at the visitors' center. The children were also taken by boat to the boardwalk. They were given snacks, drinks and posters at the end of the day.

Over 1,500 school children participated in the BAS Earth Day celebrations in April, 500 were from the parks included in this project. The theme for Earth Day this year was "Protect Our Home". Both CTWS and CBWS hosted children from the buffer communities including students from Stella Maris, a school for children with disabilities. After the official opening and presentations, the schools performed play and songs on the theme "Protect Our Home", created especially for the earth day celebrations. Schools were given certificates and gift packages. All teachers attending the event received information packages that included copies of the *Environment Agenda*, the environmental education activities book, entitled, "*Hands-on Activities for Primary School Students*" and other printed material on BAS. (*See annex W for photographs of the Earth Day events*)

### Formal Sectors Linkages:

The Education Coordinator made efforts to coordinate with the Ministry of Education to introduce the concept of EfS and influence its integration into the new national curriculum. BAS representatives met with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in the Ministry of Education in order to share information relating to BAS' mission and its approach to environmental education. The CEO was also provided with information on potential environmental services to schools and teacher education institutions. It was agreed that BAS and the Ministry of Education would take a partnership approach to the implementation of environmental education at the national level.

A relationship was also developed with representatives of the Quality Assurance and Development Service (QADS) of the Ministry of Education. QADS is mid-way through the process of establishing a national curriculum for primary and secondary schools in Belize. BAS attended the national consultations organized by QADS and was also invited to participate in curriculum development sessions with the curriculum writers teams. The Education Coordinator gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Primary curriculum Team writers, covering information on EfS as an approach to environmental education and on BAS' broader education program. The team expressed interest in working with BAS to develop teaching aids and relevant education programs at the parks. The coordinator also presented to the Secondary Social Studies curriculum Team covering similar topics. The team was keen to establish a mechanism for communication with BAS and has included EfS themes into the draft national curriculum for social studies. The curriculum teams were provided with copies of BAS' *Environmental Agenda 2002 and Beyond*, and *Hands-on Activities for Primary school students*.

## 9.0 Results against the project purpose stated in the logical framework:

Logical Framework as stated in the Technical Annex:

	<b>Intervention Logic</b>	<b>Objectively Verifiable Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
Overall Objectives	Ensure biological diversity and ecological integrity of the CBWS and CTWS wetlands are protected, sustained and restored.	CBWS and CTWS wetlands maintain biological populations and ecological systems  Determine degraded areas of Crooked Tree that are restored.	Periodic biological assessments  Other periodic ecological assessments	
Project Purpose	Involve relevant stakeholders in ecosystems' management to promote biodiversity and ecological integrity through sustainable development activities.	Increase in collaboration between community members and BAS on projects, economic enterprises and training.	Internal evaluation	GOB adopts the National Biodiversity Strategy.
Results	<p>1. Establish an efficient participatory management structure for CBWS and CTWS.</p> <p>2. Community members establish ecologically viable economic activities (in-situ)</p> <p>3. Community members establish ecologically viable economic activities (ex-situ)</p> <p>4. Community members are qualified resource managers</p>	<p>1. Number of relevant stakeholders involved in managing various aspects of the protected areas</p> <p>2. A significant number of enterprises successfully established and number of individuals involved.</p> <p>3. Number of businesses successfully established</p> <p>4. Increase in people applying skills to practices</p>	<p>1. Internal evaluation</p> <p>2. Independent evaluation Revenue generation</p> <p>3. Evaluation surveys Revenue generation</p> <p>4. Evaluation survey Certification</p>	<p>Both sites are not dereserved, therefore GOB &amp; BAS maintain working relationship.</p> <p>Viable markets increase for alternative products.</p> <p>Community perceptions of</p>

	<p>through training</p> <p>5.Mitigate threats through monitoring and enforcement pilot projects</p> <p>6.BAS' capacity is strengthened</p> <p>7.Stakeholders awareness of ecosystems' value is increased</p>	<p>5. Number of small pilot projects established to mitigate threats. Number of encroachment activities converted to constructive ones.</p>	<p>5. Internal evaluation</p> <p>6. Internal reports</p> <p>7. Internal reports</p> <p>Attitudinal survey</p>	<p>protected areas and resource management linked to BAS.</p>																																																
Activities/Inputs		<p>Cost estimate (ECU)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>EU</th> <th>BAS</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.Long-term co-mgmt plans</td> <td>128,888.64</td> <td>-</td> <td>128,888.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.Demonstration projects</td> <td>474,234.36</td> <td>101,320.50</td> <td>575,554.86</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.Resource mgmt training</td> <td>54,775.13</td> <td>20,011.18</td> <td>74,786.31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.Monitoring &amp; enforcement</td> <td>130,341.83</td> <td></td> <td>130,341.83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.Warden training</td> <td>17,564.08</td> <td>85,000.00</td> <td>102,564.08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.Education</td> <td>20,127.52</td> <td>25,641.02</td> <td>45,768.54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7.Personnel</td> <td>326,022.14</td> <td>91,261.08</td> <td>417,283.22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8.Project monitoring</td> <td>10,256.41</td> <td></td> <td>10,256.41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9. Administration</td> <td>71,301.57</td> <td></td> <td>71,301.57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10. Contingency</td> <td>59,417.97</td> <td></td> <td>59,417.97</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td>1292929.85</td> <td>323233.78</td> <td>1616163.63</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		EU	BAS	Total	1.Long-term co-mgmt plans	128,888.64	-	128,888.64	2.Demonstration projects	474,234.36	101,320.50	575,554.86	3.Resource mgmt training	54,775.13	20,011.18	74,786.31	4.Monitoring & enforcement	130,341.83		130,341.83	5.Warden training	17,564.08	85,000.00	102,564.08	6.Education	20,127.52	25,641.02	45,768.54	7.Personnel	326,022.14	91,261.08	417,283.22	8.Project monitoring	10,256.41		10,256.41	9. Administration	71,301.57		71,301.57	10. Contingency	59,417.97		59,417.97	<b>Total</b>	1292929.85	323233.78	1616163.63	<p>1. Internal reports</p> <p>2. Quarterly financial reports</p> <p>3.Mid-term and annual project reports</p>	<p>Viable markets exist for alternative products. Wildlife-related demonstration projects are not affected by diseases, other biological factors.</p> <p>Legislative framework conducive to wildlife-related demonstration projects.</p>
	EU	BAS	Total																																																	
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				<p><b>Preconditions</b></p> <p>All stakeholders interested in pursuing project objective.</p>																																																

Results measured:

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Implementation</b>	<b>Person/s Responsible</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Expenditures (EC)</b>
Long-term co-management plan	The co-management model has been developed and 50% of the structure has been established and functioning.	Project Coordinator	Year 1 & 2 of project implementation	Internal reports & quarterly financial reports	\$110,792.00
Demonstration projects	Three demonstration projects have been established	Project Coordinator	Year 1 & 2 of project implementation	Internal reports, quarterly financial reports & mid-term & annual reports	\$84,172.00
Resource management	Staff members trained in natural resource mgmt. Community Program is being developed.	Project Coordinator	Year 1 & 2 of project implementation	Internal reports, quarterly financial reports	\$23,382.00
Monitoring & enforcement	Both programs are being finalized and will be implemented within the next reporting period. Initial equipment bought.	Project Coordinator & Protected Areas Manager	Year 1 & 2 of project implementation	Internal reports, quarterly financial reports & mid-term & annual reports	\$6751.00
Warden training	The staff have received training in the areas of monitoring, education and advocacy	Project Coordinator, Protected Areas Manager	Year 1, 2 of project implementation	Internal reports, quarterly financial reports & mid-term & annual reports	\$26,342.00
Education	This program has been established and is being implemented. Brochures, educational kits and interpretive displays have been developed.	Education Coordinator	Year 1, 2 of project implementation	Internal reports, quarterly financial reports & mid-term & annual reports	\$21,029.00

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Implementation</b>	<b>Person/s Responsible</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Expenditures (EC)</b>
Personnel	All project staff hired	Project Coordinator	Year 1&2 of project implementation	Internal reports, quarterly financial reports & mid-term & annual reports	\$305,271.00
Project monitoring	Internal survey to be completed in next reporting period	Project Coordinator	Year 3 of project implementation	Internal reports, quarterly financial reports & mid-term & annual reports	\$ -
Administration	Operational	Accountant	Year 1 & 2 of project implementation	Internal reports, quarterly financial reports & mid-term & annual reports	\$45,208.00
Contingency				Internal reports, quarterly financial reports & mid-term & annual reports	\$ -

## **10. Conclusion/recommendations/lessons learned:**

In conclusion, the activities listed within the second year work plan were achieved regardless of the challenges that the project staff had to face. The personnel changes that occurred within the year was a potential threat to the project execution, as these changes included a change in Project Coordinator (twice), a change in the Community Liaison Officer and subsequent changes in the EU personnel responsible for the project. These changes however, highlighted the importance of good record keeping and project monitoring. The field visits report forms as well as the progress reports assisted greatly in ensuring the continuity of the project.

The Community Leadership Training program assisted in facilitating greater community participation and a greater understanding of the importance of sustainable development. Although the communities are interested in engaging in sustainable development they still depend heavily on BAS for bringing them together. This means that community members need ongoing support from BAS and other agencies if they are to transfer the knowledge and skills they have acquired to the community context. The BAS intends to provide this ongoing support through the community liaison officer and continuous networking with relevant organizations and government departments both nationally and regionally. The project staff is also looking at the possibility of hiring an additional staff, as the community liaison officer for the buffer communities of CTWS in the north. In addition to the increase in staff, future training programs will continue to incorporate the participation of relevant partners and the development of mechanisms to facilitate ongoing support after the training sessions.

Although the senior management staff and the Board of Directors of BAS have been guiding the co-management project, it was evident that there is a need for the Technical Advisory Committee. The TAC was not functional during the second year of implementation because changes in project staff. The TAC will be reactivated early next year after the terms of reference has been revised to incorporate more technical expertise.

As a result of the close links between the Protected Areas Conservation Trust and the Belize Audubon Society, the Society was invited to attend the final evaluation session on the implementation of their Co-management project. Through this forum, the BAS learnt that several critical barriers exist in the implementation of protected areas management at the state level. It also helped us to identify the need for clearly designing and defining the BAS Co-management model.

Throughout this year, the project operated under the premise that the request for a twelve-month extension and a six-month period of inactivity would be approved. To date, this is not finalized. Senior management recommends that this issue be resolved as soon as possible, as this will affect the implementation and the achievements of this project.

## **11.0 Annexes**

### **Annex A**

#### **Photographs of the Community Leadership Training Sessions, the Training Graduation and Participants' Comments**

## **Annex B**

### **Photographs of the Gardenia Village Multipurpose Building**

## **Annex C**

### **Photographs of the Crooked Tree Signs**

## **Annex D**

### **Terms of Reference for the LAC and the Revised Terms of Reference for the RAC**

**Annex E**

**Letter from PACT Co-management Project Manager and the  
Management Planning Framework**

**Annex F**

**Report forwarded to PACT on the Co-Management Seminar  
in Costa Rica and the published reports on the Congress**

**Annex G**  
**Report on Guatemala Trip**

## **Annex H**

### **The Cashew Cooperative Project Proposal**

**Annex I**

**Copy of the Belize Cashew Producers Cooperative Society Ltd.  
Official Registration**

**Annex J**

**Photographs of the Cashew Cooperative Factory Building in  
Sandhill Village, Belize**

## **Annex K**

### **Photographs of the Site Visit to the Cashew Plant in El Salvador**

**Annex L**

**Copies of the Cost Estimate for the Construction of the Maya Center  
Craft Shop and the Signed Contract with the Contractor**

**Annex M**

**Photographs of the new Maya Center Women's Group Craft Shop**

**Annex N**

**Report on the Alternative Livelihood Exchange**

**Annex O**

**Photographs of the Renovated Visitor Center at Crooked Tree Wildlife  
Sanctuary**

**Annex P**

**Report on the Visit to NAS Centers and the Minutes of the Development  
Committee Meeting**

## **Annex Q**

### **Job Description of the Community Liaison Officer**

## **Annex R**

**Photographs of the BAS Field Educators Training and notes of the proceedings**

**Annex S**

**Educational Materials Produced  
(Copies of the Park Brochures)**

**Annex T**

**Photographs of the Community Leaders as Educators Training  
Program**

## **Annex U**

### **Photographs of the Educational and Songbird Displays**

## **Annex V**

### **Photographs of the Workshop on Use of the Educational Kits**

**Annex W**

**Photographs of the Earth Day Events**