

# TECHNICAL COOPERATION BRIEF

## VENEZUELA

MARCH 24, 2005

|                          |   |      |         |
|--------------------------|---|------|---------|
| <b>Project name:</b>     | Training of Trainers on Indigenous Land Demarcation – Support to Indigenous Communities   |      |         |
| <b>Project number:</b>   | VE-T1001  |      |         |
| <b>Country team:</b>     | Leader: Kristyna Bishop (RE3/SO3); other members: Eduardo Casati (COF/CVE) & Kevin McTigue (LEG).   |      |         |
| <b>Executing agency:</b> | Indigenous Foundation for Integral and Sustainable Development of Indigenous Peoples and Communities (Fundacion Indígena para el Desarrollo Integral y Sostenable de los Pueblos y Comunidades Indígenas - FINDIS) with guidance from the Permanent Commission on Indigenous Peoples of the National Assembly |      |         |
| <b>Beneficiaries:</b>    | Indigenous organizations and communities, National Demarcation Commission and Mision Guaicapuro   |      |         |
| <b>Financing plan:</b>   | IDB: (JPO)  | US\$ | 90,000  |
|                          | Local:  | US\$ | 10,000  |
|                          | Total:  | US\$ | 100,000 |

### I. BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

- 1.1 There are approximately 315,000 Indigenous peoples in Venezuela (1% of the total population). As in other countries of Latin America, they represent the poorest segment of the population. The majority live in geographically remote regions of the country, in areas of high biodiversity but extremely low economic and social development. Many practice subsistence agriculture and can be characterized as low income households.
- 1.2 The 1999 Constitution of Venezuela reflects a profound transformation in political and cultural perspectives by recognizing the country's multiethnic, pluricultural and multilingual character. In particular, "Chapter VIII: On the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples" is one of the most progressive texts on this subject in the region. It gives broad recognition to the rights of Indigenous

peoples, including rights to land, culture, language and political organization. It establishes that Indigenous lands are inalienable, cannot be sold or transferred and states that Indigenous peoples have the right to collective ownership of their habitats and traditional territories.

- 1.3 In order to implement the constitutional provisions, the Law on Demarcation (Ley de Demarcacion y Garantia del Habitat y Tierras de los Pueblos y Comunidades Indígenas) was promulgated in December 2000. In addition to establishing a clear right to land demarcation for Indigenous peoples, the Law on Demarcation also provided for the establishment of the National Commission on Demarcation and Guarantee of Habitat and Lands of Indigenous Peoples. Created in August 2001, the Commission is comprised of eight members appointed by the government and eight representatives appointed by the Indigenous communities and organizations. As its name suggests, its mandate is to work with Indigenous communities to facilitate the process of demarcating their traditional lands and territories.
- 1.4 Despite the establishment of the National Commission, the Law on Demarcation relies heavily on Indigenous communities to bring claims forward to the Commission. While Indigenous communities in some states have been able to develop land use maps with the assistance and support of NGOs, many communities lack the capacity and technology required to develop these maps which has prevented them from bringing their claims to the Commission. A “training of trainers” workshop represents a critical first step in building the capacity necessary for Indigenous communities to exercise the rights contained in the new Constitution and the Law on Demarcation and will assist the Government of Venezuela to implement this important legal framework.
- 1.5 In addition to the above, the Bank is currently in the process of developing two related projects in Venezuela: the Tocoma Hydroelectric Project (VE-L1003) and Integral Management of the Caroni River Watershed (VE-L1006) are in the IDB pipeline for 2004. In particular, the Integral Management of the Caroni River Watershed project will finance the implementation of measures necessary to guarantee the sustainable development of the environmental and socio-cultural resources of the Caroní River watershed. In particular, the Support for Indigenous Communities component includes activities designed to support the land demarcation process. In addition to supporting the legal framework in general, this technical cooperation project will ensure that these communities have the knowledge and tools necessary to take advantage of this component in the loan operation.

## **II. PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION**

- 2.1 The main objective of this project is to develop training materials regarding the provisions of the Law on Demarcation, land use mapping and international comparative experiences and hold two “training of trainers” workshops for

approximately 90 Indigenous leaders from across Venezuela. The purpose is to assist with the implementation of both Chapter VIII of the Venezuela Constitution and the Law on Demarcation and the preparation of the Indigenous component in the IDB project, Integral Management of the Caroni River Watershed (VE-L1006).

2.2 Activities to be financed under this technical cooperation will include:

- a. Two consultants to prepare materials for workshop and assist with logistics. Materials will include a “how to” manual that will be used by the trainers to train other individuals in their communities;
- b. Participation of three (3) international experts to provide comparative experience regarding demarcation, land use mapping and the provisions of the Law on Demarcation;
- c. Participation of approximately 90 Indigenous leaders from across Venezuela. Participants will be chosen to reflect a geographical and cultural balance as well as their ability to provide further training in their respective communities;
- d. Organization and delivery of two 3 day “train the trainers” workshops focused on the provisions of the Law on Demarcation, land use mapping and comparative experiences;
- e. Development of a final report that includes a summary of the discussions during the workshop, list of participants, agenda and recommendations for next steps.

### **III. JUSTIFICATION**

- 3.1 In “The Other Path”, Peruvian economist Hernando de Soto argues that securing land tenure for rural populations will ensure a stable resource base and greatly contribute to improving their participation in economic markets and the wage economy. In Venezuela, the tools for achieving this have been established with the promulgation of the Law on Demarcation and the establishment of the Commission on Demarcation. However, progress has been extremely slow and there is growing frustration on the part of Indigenous communities who have submitted claims.
- 3.2 In addition to the above, the Inter-American Development Bank is currently in the process of developing two related projects in Venezuela; the Tocoma Hydroelectric Project (VE-L1003) and Caroni River Watershed Management Plan (VE-L1006) are in the IDB pipeline for 2004. In particular, the Caroni River Watershed Management Plan project will finance the implementation of measures necessary to guarantee the sustainable development of the environmental and

socio-cultural resources of the Caroní River watershed. One of the components will focus on providing support for the demarcation process in Bolivar State.

#### IV. COST AND FINANCING

##### BUDGET (in US\$)

| ACTIVITY  | Cost          |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|
|   | IDB           | LOCAL         |
| International consultants                                       | 20,000        |               |
| Workshop logistics and materials                                | 40,000        | 5,000         |
| Travel for 90 leaders   | 30,000        |               |
| Project administration (includes dissemination of final report) |               | 5,000         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>90,000</b> | <b>10,000</b> |

- 4.1 The total cost of the operation is estimated to be \$100,000 of which \$90,000 will be drawn from the Japan Special Fund – Poverty Reduction Program (JPO) and the remaining \$10,000 will be provided by the Fundacion Indígena para el Desarrollo Integral y Sostenible de los Pueblos y Comunidades Indígenas (FINDIS) in kind.

#### V. EXECUTING AGENCY AND EXECUTION STRUCTURE

- 5.1 The project will be executed by the Fundacion Indígena para el Desarrollo Integral y Sostenible de los Pueblos y Comunidades Indígenas (FINDIS) with guidance from the Permanent Commission on Indigenous Peoples of the Nacional Assembly.
- 5.2 The execution period will be 9 months, with 12 months allowed for disbursement. Administrative responsibility for the execution of the operation and disbursements will rest with COF/CVE.

#### VI. MAJOR ISSUES

- 6.1 The issue of land demarcation is often controversial. In the case of Venezuela, however, there is a strong legal framework and political support for the process of demarcation. This project will actually mitigate any potential risks by providing clear, comprehensive information and training on the process of demarcation and the provisions of the Law on Demarcation and the National Constitution of Venezuela as well as the mandate of the Commission on Demarcation.

## **VII. ACTION PLAN**

- 7.1 Once the project is approved, the Fundacion Indígena para el Desarrollo Integral y Sustentable de los Pueblos y Comunidades Indígenas (FINDIS) will execute contracts with the selected International experts and begin making plans for the National Workshop. A project coordinator will also be designated during the first 2 weeks of project execution.

## **VIII. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STRATEGY**

- 8.1 This project is expected to have a positive environmental and social impact as it focuses on an issue that is critical for both. Resolving the land demarcation issue will greatly contribute to certainty of land tenure which is important for both land and natural resource use rights as well as planning for environmental monitoring and sustainability.
- 8.2 Building capacity among Indigenous leadership will also assist the National Commission on Demarcation in fulfilling its mandate and objectives under both the Constitution of Venezuela and the Law on Demarcation.

## **IX. RESPONSIBILITY IN THE BANK**

- 9.1 Technical supervision for this project will rest with RE3/SO3. Administrative and disbursement responsibility will rest with COF/CVE. The project team leader for the technical aspects of this operation is Kristyna Bishop, Social Development Specialist, phone (202) 623-3420; fax (202) 623-3173; E-mail: kristynab@iadb.org.

## **X. RECOMMENDATION**

- 10.1 Kristyna Bishop (RE3/SO3), designated team leader for the project of the reference, recommends the approval of this operation and the use of resources from the Japan Special Fund – Poverty Reduction Program (JPO), totaling up to US\$90,000 in order to finance the corresponding project.

## XI. CERTIFICATION

- 11.1 I certify that this operation was approved for financing by the donor of the Japan Special Fund – Poverty Reduction Program (JPO) on September 7, 2004. In addition, I certify that resources from the Japan Special Fund – Poverty Reduction Program are available for up to US\$90,000 in order to finance the activities described and budgeted in this TC Profile. The commitment and disbursement of these resources shall be made only by the Bank in US dollars. The same currency shall be used to stipulate the remuneration and payments to consultants, except that local consultants working in their own borrowing member country shall have their remuneration defined and paid in the currency of that country. No resources of the Fund shall be made available to cover amounts greater than the amount certified herein above for the implementation of this TC Profile. Amounts greater than the certified amount may arise from commitments on contracts denominated in a currency other than the Fund currency, resulting in currency exchange rate differences, for which the Fund is not at risk.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Goro Mutsuura  
RE2/FSS

Date

3/28/2005

## XII. APPROVAL

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: APR - 4 2005

Juan Manuel Farina, SO3/CHF