



Trans-Boundary Initiative for

Cooperative (Joint) Management of
El Pilar Archaeological Reserve for Maya Flora and Fauna
and the Promotion of Community Based Ecotourism and the
Development of Sustainable Agricultural and Forestry Practice

Project executed from July 1999 through August 2000

Help for Progress

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Acerca de esta publicación

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Las opiniones e ideas presentadas aquí no son necesariamente respaldadas por USAID, PROARCA/CAPAS, o CCAD, ni representan sus políticas oficiales.

About this publication

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Presentación

CAPAS es uno de los componentes del Programa Ambiental Regional para Centroamérica (PROARCA), que responde a la necesidad de apoyar la agenda de la Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo (CCAD) y es financiado por la Agencia de los Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional (USAID). Por sus siglas en inglés, CAPAS significa Sistema Centroamericano de Áreas Protegidas.

En Centroamérica la responsabilidad de conservar y manejar adecuadamente los recursos naturales de la región recae tanto en entidades de gobierno así como en organizaciones de la sociedad civil. Se ha comprobado que las organizaciones no gubernamentales (ONG) mantienen protagonismo constante en propuestas y acciones para conservar los recursos del área.

Consciente de este esquema y como parte fundamental del proyecto, PROARCA/CAPAS tiene como uno de sus objetivos fortalecer la participación de organizaciones, profesionales y comunidades -que conforman el sector ambientalista y social no gubernamental de Centroamérica- en actividades que beneficien a la conservación y el uso sostenible de los recursos naturales de la región. Para alcanzar este objetivo, PROARCA/CAPAS a partir de 1997 ha brindado a las ONG financiamiento bajo el esquema de pequeñas donaciones.

Para el período 1999-2000, PROARCA/CAPAS por medio de un proceso de competencia seleccionó a 25 organizaciones de la región centroamericana para la ejecución de proyectos específicos. Dichos proyectos cubren uno o más de los siguientes temas:

- Areas Protegidas
- Ecoturismo
- CITES
- Tierras Privadas
- Agricultura y Forestería Pro Ambiental
- Coordinación transfronteriza
- Cambio Climático

Para PROARCA/CAPAS es de mucha satisfacción presentar el informe **Trans-Boundary Initiative for Cooperative (Joint) Management of El Pilar Archaeological Reserve for Maya Flora and Fauna and the Promotion of Community Based Ecotourism and the Development of Sustainable Agricultural and Forestry Practice in Belize** entre los informes técnicos finales presentados por las ONG. PROARCA/CAPAS desea agradecer a todas las organizaciones y personas que participaron en la elaboración de este trabajo.

Pequeñas Donaciones
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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The region of El Pilar is embraced by a contiguous park shared by two nations: Belize and Guatemala. At the dawn of the new millennium, there is increasing interest in co-management that commits communities to conservation, and governments to acknowledge the shared quality of their resources. With human population growth contributing to the fragmentation of biological corridors, these co-management designs take on greater significance. In the case of El Pilar, we have a concrete example of the need to establish a co-management venture to insure common strategies to conserve vanishing resources of culture and nature in the Maya Forest.

Help for Progress is an NGO committed to improve rural life in the Maya Forest. Our aim is to empower underprivileged rural people who desire to emerge from their difficult socio-economic and environmental conditions. Our participation in the El Pilar Program envisions a future where local communities around El Pilar can see their role as beneficiaries of resource management. Our goal can only be accomplished by demonstrating opportunities at the village level, where immediate livelihood solutions are needed in the short term. The El Pilar Program provides a model that can help rural communities of the Maya Forest recognize their own assets, take responsibility, and contribute to the conservation of resources for their benefit. The outcome will not only reward these communities, but the world at large.

Over the past five years there has been a growing interest in El Pilar as a new archaeological destination. As the largest Maya archaeological site in the Belize River area, El Pilar is unique in the Maya world, presenting an intimate view of ancient daily life through household structures and forest gardens. The objective of this initiative by Help for Progress, with financial support from PROARCA/CAPAS, revolves around four thematic areas: protected areas, eco-archaeological tourism, trans-border cooperation, and sustainable agriculture and forestry.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND EL PILAR

Over the last twenty-five years, dramatic changes have come to villages of the Maya Forest in Belize and Guatemala. This is evident at El Pilar (Figure 1), where the communities that are adjacent to the El Pilar Archaeological Reserve for Maya Flora and Fauna serve as an example. Overall village population has increased considerably, while livelihoods have remained the same. Many individuals have left the community to seek gainful employment elsewhere. Land-use patterns have resulted in environmental degradation and concomitant decline in the quality of life.

Help for Progress, with the El Pilar team, initiated the development of a regional model for community conservation. This model is built on a strong research base, community education awareness, and a participatory management design. The PROARCA/CAPAS small grants program has supported this concept, and Help for Progress was able to leverage resources from other arenas to further the conservation goals. This effort has

stimulated local, regional, and international interest in El Pilar by promoting the resources of the Maya forest as a principal community asset.

Figure 1



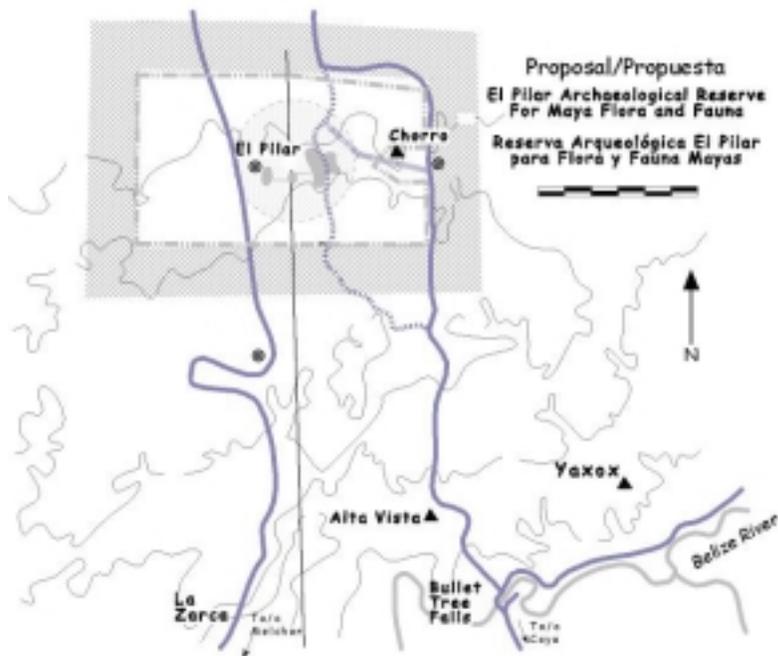
The project with PROARCA/CAPAS, initially approved for one year in July 1999, was successful in meeting its goals. This was, in a large part, due to the well-developed program design upon which this facet depended. At the close of this first phase with PROARCA/CAPAS, we had established a process of cross-border activities that depended on a wide collaborative team (Appendix I). The integrated El Pilar teamwork served to strengthen rapport, confidence, and actions at the local level that are destined to result in collaborative community conservation of one El Pilar. We conducted an internal evaluation of the project in the four thematic areas,

and that evaluation is presented in Appendix II.

The trans-boundary cooperative management of the El Pilar Archaeological Reserve for Maya Flora and Fauna (Figure 2) presented a number of new initiatives for Help for Progress and for cultural and natural resource conservation in general. To begin with, there were no templates, no models, and particularly noteworthy, no previous examples of successful strategies. Most trans-boundary activities that have occurred on the Belize - Guatemala border develop from infractions related to the traditional political acrimony that exists between these two nations. This existing condition presented risks to the success of our team project.

As events unfolded over the course of the project year, there were clear stress points that could have derailed the trajectory. They did not. The well established research and development foundation of the El Pilar Program, the clearly endorsed conservation focus, and the good rapport among government managers in Belize and Guatemala over the recent years kept the project on target. This is largely due to the effective network by the key program advocates (Anselmo Castañeda and Jose Antonio Montes), direct communication with the El Pilar Legal Team, and continual informal meetings. Our success on all fronts is a tribute to a committed group of collaborators and careful teamwork.

Figure 2



II. OBJECTIVE

Initiate the establishment of activities which would jointly achieve the awareness creation, enhance protected area management by communities, promote eco-tourism and improve the livelihood of the communities immediately impacted by a the reserve.

III. RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

To build creative livelihood opportunities that embrace the community's cultural heritage, we need to forge participation in the integrated management of cultural and natural resources of El Pilar. To firmly establish the community component of El Pilar and to make it a model and magnet for conservation designs in Mesoamerica and beyond, we need ground work at the local level in Belize and Guatemala. This ongoing process involves tiered activities focused on protected areas, eco-archaeological tourism, trans-border cooperation, and sustainable land use practices.

1. Protected Areas Planning Process

The establishment of the management plan is the essential base from which the sustainability of the program depends. Education at the local, government, and regional levels are key to the activities associated with our project. Planning steps are designed around three components: government requisites as analyzed by the El Pilar legal team, collective assessment of the organization needs of the El Pilar program, and community participatory design for management. All aspects work together, as follows:

- A joint management planning process was brought to conclusion in Belize and Guatemala.
 - In Belize, the Protected Areas Technical Evaluation Committee for El Pilar, organized by the Archaeology Department, introduced the plan and confirmed its use for the management of the El Pilar Archaeological Reserve for Maya Flora and Fauna.
 - In Guatemala, Canan K'aax developed the Plan Maestro under the CONAP guidelines. Canan K'aax met with CONAP Region VIII managers for guidance, made formal presentation to CONAP, and convened the final review meeting with IDAEH, CONAP, CAPAS, and BRASS/El Pilar for the management of Monumento Cultural El Pilar.
 - A series of trans-border management meetings culminated with the Día del Sombrero Verde agreement. This agreement outlined possible joint activities at the community and technical levels.
 - The III Mesa Redonda for El Pilar (held from the 29th May to June 2, 2000 at El Remate, Guatemala) endorsed a strategic planning process that includes delegation agreements for co-management, and the establishment of the El Pilar Consultative Council.
- Help for Progress joined Friends for Conservation and Development (FCD) to implement a series of workshops for teachers, community leaders, students from Sacred Heart Junior College Division, and members of AdEP. This activity was co-sponsored by PACT and PROARCA/CAPAS.
 - We sensitized the general public on the importance of how to manage protected areas, with an emphasis on El Pilar.
 - We trained people of the Cayo District, particularly those living near protected areas who are interested in co-management.
 - We discussed a trail guide that link parks with people for protected areas such as El Pilar.
- AdEP community members were trained in specific activities: enterprise development, cultural resource conservation, community empowerment, priority development, forest garden incentives, eco-tourism issues, crafts work and financial planning.
 - The objective was to strengthen the skill base of AdEP to become good stewards of the natural assets in the area.
 - We facilitated mobile workshops to archaeological sites: Tikal, Xunantunich, Cahal Pech, Caracol and Lamanai (see Appendix X).

- The training sessions included a visit to the Masewal Forest Garden Trail, and an agreement was signed between the trail owner and AdEP Belize.
- Help for Progress actively participated with others in the institutional development of the El Pilar conservation area.
 - We contributed to concepts of how to integrate cultural and natural resources in a joint management planning strategy with academic researchers, government managers, and local communities in Belize and Guatemala.
 - We leveraged resources for community resource development with Canada Fund.
 - We developed basic infrastructure standards (comfort stations) at El Pilar with the collaboration of the British High Commission, Raleigh International, and the BRASS/El Pilar Program.
 - We signed a collaborative agreement with the BRASS/El Pilar Program, University of California Santa Barbara.

2. Eco-Archaeological Tourism

Help for Progress held various meetings with the AdEPs and the greater communities to discuss their role in the management and protection of El Pilar. Formal and informal activities built friendships and confidence in the potential of El Pilar. These events fortified commitments of all parties, forging better links in thematic activities. One major activity was the Fiesta El Pilar 2000, where the communities of Belize and Guatemala jointly made this event a resounding success. Efforts are now planned to have the Fiesta El Pilar 2001 allow visitors to visit El Pilar in its entirety.

- Help for Progress promoted an agreement and joint workplan between AdEP Belize and AdEP Guatemala (with partner NGO Canan K'aax) regarding workshops, community familiarization tours, and the Fiesta El Pilar 2000 (see Appendix V).
 - The agreement seeks to establish mechanisms for mutual cooperation between both community organizations.
 - It advocates the progressive involvement of both governments in areas of administration, access, signage, trails and in internal/external relations.
- We helped coordinate Fiesta El Pilar 2000 with full community participation via AdEP. The organizing committee solicited sponsors (see Appendix VI) and levied small rental fees for booths at the El Pilar archaeological site. Food service, craft sales, music, exhibitions, dances, and awards were all orchestrated for the Fiesta El Pilar. The major achievements in this venture were:
 - Participants came from both Guatemala and Belize, with a positive effect on the promotion and outcome of this activity that augurs well for future collaboration.

- The Fiesta strengthened bonds between AdEP and other community groups, and created awareness of the cultural assets from which the communities can enhance their living.
 - The linkages between the Fiesta El Pilar 2000 Committee, the public and private sectors, the NGOs, and the community served to enhance the success of the event.
 - The communities directly benefited through sales of food, crafts and promotion of their products.
 - An organizational structure and seed funds were established so that Fiesta El Pilar will be stable as an annual event.
 - The activity proved that the eco-archaeological concept does have promising tourism potential.
- Help for Progress worked with the Sacred Heart Junior College to develop an eco-archaeological tourism model for the curriculum of its field program (Appendix VII)

3. Trans-Border Cooperation

The grant by PROARCA/CAPAS offered a great opportunity to develop stronger linkages between two historically problematic Central American neighbors – Belize and Guatemala. The joint efforts at El Pilar demonstrate that the protection and management of a cultural and natural resource transcend borders. Background research and informal legal analyses by the El Pilar legal team maintained open pathways for the project during the tense Belize/Guatemala relations in 1999-2000. In light of this situation, our achievements are remarkable, as follows:

- Help for Progress developed a collaborative partnership with the Guatemala NGO, Canan K'aax, that assisted greatly in the implementation of the project.
 - The partnership worked with the El Pilar legal team to bring the cross-border agenda forward.
 - Through their cross-border contacts with us in Belize, Canan K'aax formalized the Plan Maestro for CONAP in Guatemala.
 - The cross-border communication was vital to coordinate the III Mesa Redonda for El Pilar.
 - The partnership established parallel Amigos de El Pilar (AdEP) at the community level in both Belize and Guatemala, starting in December 1998.
- We conducted workshops and meetings with the AdEPs in Belize and Guatemala to formulate a joint AdEP Plan of Action.

- Canan K'aax and Help for Progress endorsed the agreement for the implementation of joint activities between AdEPs (see Appendix V).
- Strategic management and community counterpart meetings in Belize and Guatemala were guided by the El Pilar legal team of Tom Ankersen and Jose Antonio Montes.
 - This facilitated cultural and natural resource plans, and supported agricultural development exercises with Canan K'aax and Help for Progress.
 - The Dia del Sombrero Verde summit was coordinated by Montes and Ankersen.
 - The El Pilar legal team prepared a letter of intent for cooperation in the management, development, and conservation of El Pilar in the following programs: (1) Cultural resources; (2) Natural Resources; (3) Pilot Project: Formulation of a Long-Term Strategic Plan 2000-2005, and Implementation of the Protocols for Monitoring and Evaluation, and (4) Follow-up and Coordination.
- Canan K'aax and Help for Progress signed an agreement for collaboration in cross-border activities and services to AdEP Guatemala and to provide deliverables. This agreement helped to expedite the project and for smooth implementation.
- Strategic Planning workshops were held in Belize among Canan K'aax, CONAP, the Archaeology and Forestry Departments of Belize, Help for Progress, Envic, and BRASS/El Pilar.
 - They involved significant prior investments in familiarization meetings.
 - They addressed comparison of management designs – Belize & Guatemala.
 - A strategic plan was prepared for discussion at the III Mesa Redonda for El Pilar.
 - They outlined follow-up workshops which were held at Jaguar Creek Resort in Belize, sponsored by PROARCA/CAPAS

4. Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry

Forests are all around us in Belize and Guatemala. In Belize and the Petén of Guatemala, more than 40% of the natural resources are under some form of protection, based on governmental intervention. What is lacking is the common knowledge to manage these important resources in a sustainable manner, and a perspective on the diversity of livelihoods that could spring from such management. The promotion of agro-forestry education is a step towards understanding appropriate land-use strategies in the Maya forest.

- Traditional farmers from AdEP Belize met organic farmer Simon Hernandez (from Honduras) at the Tzunu'un Forest Garden of El Pilar. AdEP/Guatemala met him

formally in a forum introduced by the mayor of Melchor. After the presentation there was a farm site visit.

- Three members each from Belize and Guatemala attended a one-week training in agro-forestry/organic farming at ALTERTEC, Guatemala.
- El Pilar advanced with a nursery and plant propagation design for the community forest gardening project.
- The AdEP program incorporated the Masewal Forest Garden trail and Heriberto Cocom's traditional forest garden approaches as educational tools.
- Help for Progress participated in the initial development of a traditional forest garden model for the Belize College of Agriculture (Appendix XI)

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The model we see for El Pilar focuses on sustainable livelihood opportunities that expand from a traditional forest garden concept, and on eco-archaeological tourism at the El Pilar Archaeological Reserve. A common cultural and natural resource heritage is the basis we use to build local assets for these two forms of development.

An informed, interested and active cadre of team players has developed out of the El Pilar Program, advanced in part with support by PROARCA/CAPAS. The team has specific skills related to research, development, management, and agricultural and environmental practices. The project has set a stage for cross-border coordination. An essential network of local actors is now identified. We have established and formalized partnerships between Help for Progress and Canan K'aax. We have national management plans endorsed in Belize and Guatemala, and the El Pilar Legal Team has prepared instruments for community participation in management planning for the Department of Archaeology in Belize and CONAP in Guatemala. These results are major achievements. They represent a process that must be continued to meet the essential goal of cross-border cooperation. Successful implementation extends beyond the scope of this project, and will require more investments in order to continue.

The broad goals proposed for the grant by PROARCA/CAPAS to Help for Progress were achieved. It is envisaged that, with bi-national community participation in the management of the cultural and natural resources of El Pilar, there is considerable potential for advances in an area that has not seen many positive community developments or new livelihood opportunities. However, the process has only just begun.

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VI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Our sincerest gratitude is extended to PROARCA/CAPAS for funding this trans-boundary initiative to develop the vision of El Pilar and its people.

To the people living in the adjacent communities of El Pilar, we thank you for your collaboration during the implementation of this project, and we look forward with optimism to your continued commitment and concern in the protection and enhancement of our heritage - El Pilar.

VII. APPENDIX

APPENDIX I: THE EL PILAR TEAM

A creative team has been identified and affirmed through the III Mesa Redonda El Pilar management planning process. The organization is as follows:

Community Development Team

~ Amigos de El Pilar Belize/Guatemala

- Community based organization promoting local participation in the management and benefits related to El Pilar.
- Commitment to conservation of resources at El Pilar.
- Actively involved in expanding participation in conservation, especially the youth
- Concerned with livelihood opportunities associated with El Pilar.
- Promoting traditional and organic gardening within and around El Pilar
- Establishing cross-border community projects at El Pilar.
- Participating in the development of eco-archaeological tourism.

Community Accompaniment

NGO Program Partners: Community and Conservation Management

~ Help for Progress/Belize: Elias Awe, Rick August, Melanie Santiago

- Community asset building for rural community development.
- Social and environmental advocacy for community programs.
- Capacity building and management for community based organizations.
- Linkage empowerment between rural communities and local government as well as local and international NGOs
- Enterprise development for rural communities

~ Canan K'aax/ Guatemala: Mario Mancilla, Oswaldo Morales

- Resource conservation management and environmental research in coordination with community participation.
- Environmental research inventory and monitoring.
- Management linkage for communities and resource conservation.
- Coordination of conservation program development in the Maya forest.
- International conservation community networking.

El Pilar Program Organization

~ UCSB Main Office: Anabel Ford Director

1. Initiate and maintain program contacts and promote the El Pilar model and vision internationally.
2. Assist in and manage team research, development, and coordination for El Pilar and the Maya forest internationally.
3. Coordinate interdisciplinary research projects as well as activities, agendas and meetings for El Pilar
4. Collaborate with research and development of Rudy Larios on the conservation of the ancient Maya monuments and El Pilar.

~ Belize Office: Anselmo Castañeda Regional Environment

1. Local and regional analyses of administrative and issues surrounding environmental management of cultural and natural resources of the Maya forest and Mesoamerica.
2. Presentation of the El Pilar conservation model in the context of the analyses of Mesoamerican biological corridors.
3. Initiate and maintain program contacts in Belize.
4. Promotion of the El Pilar model among key government and NGO officials involved in culture and nature.
5. Coordinating local, national, and international meetings to formulate integrated strategies for El Pilar.

~ Guatemala Office: José Antonio Montes International Law

1. Regional and international analyses of legal and political structure for management of shared cultural and natural resources.
2. Research and drafting of legal position papers for regional distribution and formal documents for agreements.
3. Initiate and maintain program contacts in Guatemala
4. Promotion of the El Pilar model among key government and NGO officials involved in culture and nature.
5. Coordinating local, national, and international meetings to formulate integrated strategies for El Pilar.

~ El Pilar Legal Team: José Antonio Montes and Tom Ankersen

1. Open pathways and sets the regional stage for local activities.
2. Act in advisory capacity on legal issues for the team
3. Prepares legal outlines and drafts of standards and agreements.
4. Manage legal interpretation of national and trans-national documents.
5. Convene formal trans-border meetings.

APPENDIX II: THEMATIC AREAS

(Rates: This rating ranges from 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest)

Activity	Rate	Comments
<p>PROTECTED AREAS: a. Develop school programs for the communities to increase awareness of EPAR and to research appropriate curricula.</p>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network contacts and consultation made in Belize Department of Education and other institutions in Guatemala. • Consultation indicate need for environmental and conservation education and clear definition of El Pilar's role of tourism. • Presentations made to primary and secondary schools in Cayo as tests. • Sponsor segments of children's newspaper "The Nature Observer". published monthly by Friends for Conservation & Development (FCD). • CAPAS project, the Project Coordinator, major in Environmental Science at Sacred Heart College, complemented the awareness of the El Pilar project as part of his school assignment on community and environmental services at the project area. • Promotion of school visits to the El Pilar Archaeological Reserve, • Marcos Garcia, the Senior Caretaker at El Pilar and Secretary to AdEP has been very instrumental working with schools. • Incorporation of Masewal Forest Garden trail into school field curriculum. • El Pilar team has initiated work with the SHC Junior College Division and the Belize College of Agriculture developing a program in eco-archaeological tourism and introducing the forest gardening concept.
<p>b. Develop a program for capacity building for local communities .</p>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • program development based on <i>Guía para los mejores practicas de ecoturismo en las areas protegidas de Centro America</i>. • Weekly meetings with women's group in enterprise development • periodic meetings and workshops on organizational development and at the presentations associated the draft management plan in Belize and Guatemala with Canan K'aax .
<p>c. Inform communities on draft management plan for El Pilar.</p>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed as a learning process as an integration in all aspects of the project. • Plan Maestro Guatemala completed with Canan K'aax • PATEC-EP Belize endorsed management plan Belize • document presentation to AdEP in Belize and Guatemala • The management plan examined in the workshop of "Promoting Environmental Interpretation in Natural and Cultural Areas " by FCD,
<p>d. Promote participation of government, NGO, and community in the EPAR in Belize and Guatemala</p>	4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal and informal meetings were held with GOs and NGOs of Belize and Guatemala participating in the El Pilar model through out the year. • The Protected Areas Technical and evaluation Committee (PATEC) Belize made up of a governmental and non-governmental multidisciplinary group including community members to work on the elaboration of the management plan. • Canan K'aax assembled field and research data to develop the Plan

		<p>Maestro of Guatemala</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The El Pilar team met several times culminating at the Yaxha at El Sombrero to discuss issues, find ways of institutional strengthening for El Pilar and plan activities to be done jointly with the actors of El Pilar team. • From the 29th of May to the 2nd of June, 2000 El Pilar team met once again at the Mesa Redonda III, this meeting marked another stepping stone for the trans-boundary and co-management vision of El Pilar and its people.
e. Underscore importance of the reserve's resources and their program.	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing activity and proven to be two jobs: it creates awareness and at the same time it markets El Pilar. • Every opportunity that arises is used to promote and show the work that is being undertaken at El Pilar • Can only be achieved if the cultural and natural environment is maintained as intact as possible. • Complemented through the celebration of Fiesta El Pilar 2000, The opening of Café Be-Pukte, the creation of the Masewal forest Garden and increase of tourist in the area.
f. Maintenance of perimeter reserve and implement signage program. AdEP's	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AdEP accompanied by Help For Progress and Canan K'aax are developing linkages to insure protection of existing boundaries • The perimeter of the reserve is being maintained by the Department of Archaeology in Belize and by CONAP in Guatemala. • Marcos Garcia, Sr. Caretaker in Belize is setting excellent example in outreach and reporting.
g. Initiate archeological, botanical inventory, & topographic mapping.	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative efforts among the El Pilar team have continued this process as an ongoing part of project activities • Workshops at El Pilar focused on resources and how to identify them • Control point system designed for an integrated El Pilar • Photo-mosaic compiled and geo-rectified to locate resources • Water sources identified in eastern section of El Pilar • Boundary markers located and geo-referenced
ECO-TOURISM		
a. Develop capacity building in eco-tourism for local communities.	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Belize Tourist Board (BTB) and HfP have given sessions on tourism as a business. • Minister of Tourism Belize visited AdEP and El Pilar • BTIA conducted site visit to AdEP at the Be Pukte • Promotion of the Fiesta El Pilar 2000. • Governor General of Belize visited AdEP and toured El Pilar.
b. Develop interpretive visitors material on cultural & natural of the EPAR and local communities.	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of a postcard and a poster promoting El Pilar • Drafting of brochure for El Pilar. • Information on the history of the communities compiled • FDC El Pilar Creek interpretive guide prepared • El Pilar comprehensive trail guide drafted for publication • Compiled historic video materials for editing into a bilingual presentation for AdEP Belize and Guatemala

<p>c. Emphasize reserve goals to conserve cultural and natural resources integrity.</p>	<p>5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on-going process in the care and protection of resources at El Pilar • promotion of the reserve, e.g. Fiesta El Pilar 2000 a community initiative. • Education of community in shared benefits of co-management • Increase of regional awareness of importance of El Pilar model
<p>d. Plan economic development in a manner consistent with the cultural & environmental qualities of the area.</p>	<p>3.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop team participants focused on the benefit potentials of El Pilar for local, regional and international conservation efforts • Promote short term team benefits that result in long term conservation through work at local and regional level • Forge links at governmental and international levels to elaborate the management planning process • Develop community outlets such as the Be Pukte Cultural Center and the Masewal Forest garden Trail. • Fortify financial accounting within AdEP
<p>TRANS-BORDER COOPERATION</p>		
<p>a. Create strong cooperation bond between EPAR & local communities.</p>	<p>4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executed a series of community consultation in communities in Belize and Guatemala • Approved management plan presentations in Belize and Guatemala • Promotion of EPAR within the NGO community in Belize and Guatemala • Coordinate press development of El Pilar • Promoted Fiesta El Pilar 2000 • Planned agricultural education field trip
<p>b. Conduct bi-national meetings with project staff from both countries.</p>	<p>5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple informal encounters in the cross-border efforts at El Pilar • Joint meetings of local government managers and partner NGOs with AdEP were conducted periodically for familiarization efforts leading to major decision making meetings • November 1999, DIA DEL SOMBRERO VERDE resulted in the drafting of a Letter of cooperation in the management, development and conservation of El Pilar through the following programs: Cultural Resources, 2. Natural Resources, 3. Pilot Project: Formulation of a Long Term Strategic Plan 2000-2005; Implementation of the Protocols for Monitoring and Evaluation, and 4. Follow up and Coordination. • Ill Mesa Redonda.El Pilar resulted in a major set of actions agreed to by both national and all participants based on endorsed management plans and the developed strategic plan for El Pilar
<p>c. Implement a joint public awareness program of El Pilar.</p>	<p>4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journalist Orlando Pulido has carried on Belize public awareness. • Major events and accomplishments have made news and created awareness for El Pilar. • AdEP project coordinator and Claudia Logan (member) have traveled to two major districts in Belize to sell and market posters and postcards of El Pilar creating awareness and the impact has shown the increase of visitation to the park.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project coordinator gave a talk on the project on the local TV station, this was done in English and Spanish. • School programs include presentations at the environmental symposium, slide presentation at the schools in Belize and Guatemala. • Tourism presentations in Belize and Guatemala • Brochures of El Pilar and the communities are being prepared by Canan K'aax.
d. AdEP Guatemala achieve its status	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 30th 2000, Amigos de El Pilar, Guatemala was registered and launched as a Sociedad Civil. • AdEP Guatemala formally participated in the Fiesta El Pilar 2000
SUSTAINABLE AG & FOREST PRACTICES		
a. Train three families from each country in sustainable agricultural and forestry practices	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 1999 participants from both ADEP groups traveled to Altermec Guatemala to undertake training in agro-forestry/organic farming. • Members included 3 from Belize and 3 from Guatemala • Plans underway to conduct field activities in association with Masewal and El Pilar