PROGRAMA DE SALUD
PROYECTO EVALUACION DE
IMPACTOS SOBRE
SALUD AMBIENTAL EN AMAZONIA
Coordinación Regional





EVALUATION REPORT

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN AMAZONIA PROJECT

IDRC/CIID: No. 93-8750







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PROJECT EVALUACION DE IMPACTOS SOBRE SALUD AMBIENTAL EN AMAZONIA

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN AMAZONIA (EISA-EHIA) UNAMAZ IDRC/CIID N° 93-8750-00

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Introduction.-

This evaluation has been carried out according to the terms of reference that were provided by the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of CIID in their communication dated June 14, 1995. For its realization, as well as for the presentation of this report the steps and sections proposed were strictly followed. The meeting with the Coordination Unit at the beginning of the evaluation, the visits to Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela, as well as the attendance of the Regional Course in Cuiabá during August 1995 were carried out as planned. Nevertheless small changes of the calendar occurred, for the dates had to be adequate to the beginning of activities after the university vacations. The evaluation here reported was carried out between August 15 and September 30 1995.

Methodology-

To perform the evaluation the methodology and the steps set in the terms of reference received were followed

To estimate the achievements of the project compared to the objectives and the goals established for the period the document prepared by the Evaluation Unit of CIID entitled "Worksheets for Evaluation Planning" were used expressed in the "project map" in which each of the objectives is presented in a separate manner, the planned activities, the expected results, population covered and expected impacts

To carry out the evaluation two types of information sources were considered

- A) The documents, which consisted of the information which was found in the files of the coordination unit, the documents obtained during the visits to the different institutions, as well as reports specifically asked from each of the national coordinators or members of the national teams in case when this was necessary (Anne 1)
- B) The oral, which were the interviews carried out in an individual or collective manner(focal groups) to the direct or indirect participants of the project(Annex 2) In this

sense we considered three types of actors in the process

- 1) The coordinators of the NRC, present or past
- 2) The personnel involved in the carrying out of the project,
- 3) The authorities of the participating university institutions Directors of Centers,

 Deans or Rectors according to what was appropriate in each case

The evaluation has been qualitative and has had a participatory character, each of the NRC was considered as a study case and the sum was considered as a case of multiple studies which allowed the evaluation of the global objectives of the project¹

In all the cases we have taken into consideration individual aspects (commitment, leadership, understanding of the project) group and institutional dynamics which have either facilitated or acted as obstacles to the development of the project

The project and the delimitation of the evaluation field.-

The project Environmental Health Impact Assessment in Amazonia seeks to "strengthen regional capacity to carry out Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) linked to development projects which, even if the give primary attention to the effects upon health, will also explore socioeconomic repercussions of these projects upon the local populations"

The Project has the following objectives

A Create an institutional network that permits the exchange of information and scientific-technological cooperation, taking into consideration the comparative advantages of its members. Establish the base for increasing the number of countries of the network

¹ Weiss, C (1972) Evaluation Research Methods for 4ssesing Program Efectiveness New Jersey, Prentice-Hall F Alvira Martin (1991) Metodologia de la Evaluación de Programas, Madrid, Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas E Cohen y R Franco (1992) Evaluación de Proyectos Sociales, Mexico, Siglo XXI S Andrade, M Shedlin, E Bonilla (1987) Metodos Cualitativos para la Evaluación de Programas The Pathfinder Fund R Yin (1992) "The case Study Method as a tools for doing Evaluation", Current Sociology Vol 40, N° 1, pp 119-137

- B Facilitate the training of the minimum necessary number of researchers, professionals and technicians to carry out assessments of adverse impacts upon environmental health
- C Strengthen the scientific and technological capacity of institutions in the region to incorporate and create knowledge, technologies and strategies that for the study, assessment and mitigation of such effects
- D Study and prevent the effects of development projects to be implemented or that have already been implemented in the region
- E Promote the permanent monitoring of the environment in close contact with community organizations, development agencies and political authorities

Delimitation of the goals:

Because of economic circumstances of the financing agency, the budget of the project was reduced in 50% at its starting point. This reduction was not reflected in any document in an explicit manner, that is, there is no express description of the objectives or the activities that would be eliminated or reduced during the implementation period. Doing it in this manner was, according to what I was informed, a joint decision of the financing agency and projects proponents. Nevertheless, as was to be expected, there also existed a tacit agreement that the breadth of the project should be reduced in a percentage similar to the reduction that had taken place. This evaluation thus assumes as its reference the initial project presented and approved, but will take into consideration the restrictions previously mentioned.

Delimitation of the time of implementation.

The project has as its starting date the month of September 1993, date in which the coordination unit starts its activities, but, the activities at a country level were initiated approximately six moths later. That is, at the moment of the carrying out of this evaluation, August-September 1995, the time for activities of the CNRs is approximately one year and a half. Therefor in the case of the NRCs of the three countries this is the time lapse that should

be considered in the evaluation

Achievements.-

Related to Objective Nº 1

Objective Nº 1 said

"Create an institutional network that permits the exchange of information and scientific-technological cooperation, tanking into account the comparative advantages of its members Establish the bases for increases the number of countries of the network"

In a global manner it is possible to say that this objective has been achieved. There are differences in its fulfillment among the different countries and depending on the type of activity, but results, coverage and impact that were expected have been achieved.

The coordination unit is installed and is functioning, the 3 centers were selected and the agreements with the different institutions were established

The NRCs are functioning and have professional teams and graduate and undergraduate students that feel as integrating a project and a common process, both within each country and at international level

All university authorities interviewed in the three countries recognize the existence of the project and the professional team that is part of it and grant it salient importance in their institution. Besides they have assigned time of the personnel to dedicate themselves to the activities of the project and expressed that they maintain their expectations as to its results

The national networks have a differentiated development. In the case of Brazil the building of the network has faced many difficulties, the great distances that separate the cities where the possible institutions to become part of the network are, the high costs of communications and the weak capacity of the NRC to get others to join the network has limited its institutionalization outside the State of Mato Grosso. Nevertheless in its own State they have established cooperation networks with the local government, as well as with

other groups within the University

In Colombia the national network was constructed in the first moment within the Universidad de los Andes, permitting the cooperation between departments and centers, and has had a limited incorporation external to the University. Nevertheless the initiation of the Red Colombia as a system with a World Wide Web (WWW) type server on INTERNET permits horizontal communication between the different researchers situated in diverse institutions and cities working in the area of impact assessment, health and environment in the Amazon, and is an important achievement to be followed. The Red Colombia has still a very limited data base, but with great potential for the future.

The national network in Venezuela has been built upon from the masters course that has been organized by the NRC of Venezuela, the group of institutions and whose professors are teaching in it is a very good representation of the country, for it incorporates other instances of the same Universidad Central de Venezuela, as well as other universities of the country. This network has the advantage that since it has been built upon a specific activity it permits precise and solid linkages for cooperation. Nevertheless is has the limitation that it does not permit access of those that are not directly involved in this activity.

The communication system between the Coordination Unit and the NRC is well established and fluid and permanent communications were observed to exist. This is not the case among the NRC and the other participants at a national level, institutions and persons, and much of the information that arrives from the Coordination Unit do not reach them or do not reach the rest of the members opportunely Efforts have been made such as the publication of a Bulletin by Colombia and a similar one is planned in Brazil But these media are slow and it seems that in everyday life of the coordinators the transference of information is diluted

The electronic network has been established, the project has its INTERNET address and it is possible to have an agile communication by this medium which appears to be underutilized at the moment Limitations of equipment, connectivity or lack of habit have made difficult until the moment a better electronic communication

From the point of view of the impact established in the Map of the Project it is possible to say that the expected impacts have been satisfactorily achieved. There has existed participation by the research groups in the NRC and the groups showed satisfaction with the program. In some cases, like the NRC in Brazil there has existed a wish for greater participation on the part of the national members, who expressed their desire for stronger incorporation to the activities such as courses and other events. In Colombia, on the other hand, it was the authorities that expressed a desire for greater participation in the program.

From the point of view of the authorities there exists full knowledge and legitimity of all the NRCs, as well as expressions of their satisfaction with the existence and permanence of the project

Related to Objective Nº 2

The objective N° 2 of the Project said "

"Facilitate the training of the minimum number of researchers, professionals and technicians necessary to carry on assessments of adverse impacts upon environmental health"

Objective N° 2 was achieved to a great extent, even though a part of the expected impact could not be obtained due to difficulties of an administrative nature.

This objective may be discriminated in three parts

Training in Canada.

The training planned for "senior" professors in Canada was carried out with positive results for the formation of personnel and their professional performance. An important limitation in this activity was the difficulty of the Coordinators of Colombia who were unable to participate in the training, therefore were unable to receive the formative inputs and of course were unable to transfer them to the rest of the team. The person selected for the training had good professional qualifications but was not a member of the Department of Anthropology, where the project is placed, and this year has left the Universidad de los Andes A similar situation occurred in Brazil, only that at present there have been positive

results One of those sent was a person on a fellowship ("bolsista del CNPq") of the University, upon the end of the fellowship he was given a contract by the University, but in another department, therefore became separated from the project and one might consider it a lost resource until recently when he has once more been incorporated and designated national coordinator of the project

One of the expected results of the Canadian training was that they might become "multipliers" of the acquired knowledge and this action appears to have been, until the present, very limited towards the rest of the members of the teams Nevertheless the organization of workshops (in all the countries, short courses (In Brazil, in the State of Pará), as well as the masters course (Venezuela), may be considered as achieving the planned purpose

Workshops and National Courses

The goal of Workshops was fulfilled by the different NRC in diverse manners. In Venezuela three Workshops well specified themes were planned and with the participation of the professionals members of the network, the titles were "Community Participation in Environment and Health Impact Assessment in Amazonia", (October 1994), "Technology, Environment and Sustainable Development in Amazonia" (January 1995) and "Health, Environment and Sustainable Development in Amazonia" (planned for July 1995, deferred for October 1995) in Venezuela no course on EIA is reported, save the masters course which will be considered in the next objective

In Colombia a workshop on "Health, Culture y Environment in the Colombian Amazonia" (Mayo 1995) took place, and a joint meeting with the regional coordination was one where two Canadian consultants participated and which was destined to discuss the Graduate Course Project of the Department of Anthropology Additionally, two subjects are reported as results of the products of the project, in the anthropology career at the Universidad Nacional, which focus on the large development projects with emphasis in the Amazon

Also in Colombia two workshops under the auspices of the Regional Coordination

Unit took place about "Gold mmmg", one in August 1994, and another parallel to the regional coordination meeting y May 1995. Another workshop on the same subject took place in Caracas, Venezuela during December 1994.

Finally Brazil reports a specific training activity which was the "Curso intensivo sobre Evaluación de Impacto en Salud y Ambiente" (Intensive Course on Impact Assessment on Health and Environment) as well as non-specific training activities but which responded to the global needs of the Graduate program, and these were three seminars on "qualitative research methodology on health", "phenomenology" y "hermeneutics"

A course similar to that of Brazil should take place in Colombia and Venezuela during the time left for the implementation of the first part of the project

The circumstances of the workshops are different, but globally one may say that they were carried out. In the case of Brazil the most difficult to evaluate is the fact that they lack specificity for they had assumed the project as a global support to cover the weaknesses of the graduate course on Environment and Health, and this would justify the presence of the two previously mentioned seminars. Nevertheless from an external vision this selection does not seem the most adequate.

The Regional Course on EIA.

The regional course took place in Cuiabá during August 1995 and we had the opportunity to attend part of the time during the evaluation activities. The purposes of the same it is possible to consider that they were achieved and in the opinion of the Canadian professors of the course there was evidence of a considerably better understanding of the EIA perspective among the participants

The course also had an effect of a positive impact upon the NRC of Brazil, for this permitted a greater integration between the group and the University authorities

The expected impact of objective N°2 has been globally achieved there exist three structured networks with basic EIA training. The understanding of the specificity of the EIA perspective is not, nevertheless, the same among all the participants. Additionally this

training has not been applied yet, no has it been reproduced for diffusion towards others, and when this happens a better understanding of the singularity that EIA has may be expected

Related to Objective Nº 3

Objective No 3 said

"Strengthen the scientific and technological capacity of the institutions of the region to incorporate and create knowledge, technology and strategies that may permit the study, assessment and mitigation of such effects"

This objective was discriminated in three fundamental activities: equipment for communications, UNESCO chair and two postgraduate courses at masters level, in a global manner one may say it was achieved.

The communications equipment was bought and installed, the process of using it has been slow, in some cases because it requires some improvements of the University major equipment, and in all cases because of little expertise and habit in relation to its use

The UNESCO Chair has been established by means of a recently signed agreement and it has a budget of its own for its implementation, has a preliminary plan and is now in the process of the designation of a Chair Head

The goal of having two graduate courses with thematic contents was partially achieved, for there is only one established. The situation of the graduate courses is the following

In Venezuela there is now a graduate course with two versions one as "Specialization Course on Impact Assessment on Environment and Health in Amazonia" and another one as "Masters Course on Impact Assessment on Environment and Health, Mención Amazonía" The course is established at CENDES but it has the support of the Centro de Estudios del Ambiente CENAMB (Environmental Studies Center), of the Instituto de Medicina Tropical (Tropical Medicine Institute) and the Instituto de Zoología Tropical (Tropical Zoology Institute) of the same University, as well as of the graduate courses on Environmental Sciences and Occupational Health of the Universidad Nacional Experimental de Guayana The Course now has eight students with diverse experiences

(materials engineer, mining engineer, two medical doctors, two social workers, biologist, international studies), at present they are at the end of the second academic period. The average age of the students is 32 8 years, which represents a young population with potentiality for acting in the area. In the interviews made to the students they showed satisfaction with the graduate course, and an equally positive balance was made by the Academic Committee of the course.

In Colombia a proposal was prepared for a Course on "Especialización en Evaluación de Impacto, Desarrollo y Antropología Médica" (Specialization on Impact Assessment, development and Medial Anthropology) The document was discussed with a group of Canadian experts but the initiative was not implemented. Several factors coincided so as to not make it possible, one of them is that the person that acting as leader of the initiative and that was given a contract to prepare the proposal of the course (María Eugenia Romero) has left the country for graduate studies, another is the dynamics of the Universidad de los Andes, which is a private University that requires self-financing and that the process of establishing an initiative of this nature requires of a different support than at the other Universities Yet one must point out that they did not explore the possibility of cooperation with other faculties, which would have speeded the process, for the same University offers in its Faculty of Economics a "Magister en Economía del Medio Ambiente y los Recursos Naturales" (Masters in Economics of the Environment and Natural Resources), and in the Faculty of Engineering a "Especialización en Manejo Integrado del Medio Ambiente" (Specialization in the Integrated Management of the Environment) The road that has been covered is important and it requires barely a disposition and the will of the group to make the specialization course a reality, for they have the support of the authorities

One may expect that given the prestige that the Universidad de los Andes has it may be quite well received among possible students. The conversations that took place lead one to expect it initiation towards the end of 1996 or the beginning of 1997.

The situation of the graduate course in Brazil is radically different. The University created in 1993 a Curso de Posgraduação en Saúde e Ambiente (Postgraduate Course on

Health and Environment) with masters and doctorate level on Health and Environment This course has degrees with majors in five areas health and society, botany, environmental chemistry, pharmacology and epidemiology of the illness-health process. In this case it was not necessary to create any course, for it existed beforehand. The particular situation of the Course, according to the conversations which we were able to have and the documents that were presented for revisions, one observes that there is no integration between the different areas and that the nexus between health and environment is in its name, but not in the manner the work is carried out or in the process of teaching-learning. Additionally one notes that there is great potential for incorporation of the subjects and perspective of EIA in all the different courses and this has not been done.

The expected impact one may say it has been achieved, and even if this requires more concrete actions or greater robustness, it is surprising to see how much has been achieved with so little time and money invested

Related to Objective Nº 4

Objective No 4 said

"Study and prevent the adverse effects of development projects that are to be implemented or those that have been implemented in the region"

Objective N° 4 has not been achieved even though several of the activities planned for its fulfillment took place.

This objective implied three activities a meeting to identify a common research project for the three countries, the elaboration of a research protocol and the presentation of the same to the financing agency. The meeting took place- in fact three meetings took place- and several working papers of the protocol were prepared, but it was not possible to have a common final protocol nor of course its presentation to the financing agency. Therefore the expected result which should crown the efforts made this not materialize.

Around this objective it is necessary to point out that this is the only aspect around

which I found important friction and problems among the group of participants in the project (The NRCs and the regional coordination) The inclusion in this process of an external advisor who should help in the preparation of the process had little relevance for the preparation of the protocol and highly negative for the dynamics of the group

In 1994 two meeting took place to advance in the project of a common research, one in Bogotá in August and one in Caracas in December, which filled their proposed objective The theme selected was Gold mining and a regional coordinator for the project was chosen (Fernando Medellín, Colombia)

For the meeting in May 1995 a common project was to be presented, which did not happen and only a proposal was presented that, in the interview, the regional coordinator qualified as "poor". In this meeting no agreement was reached and divergent opinions were presented in the group, but particularly a double message on the part of the professionals related to the financing agency (about the possible amount to be financed and the channels to be used for its presentation) that created confusion, but worse still, distance and struggle between the national groups among themselves and between them and the regional coordination

From this moment the situation of the project became critical and communication was broken. There is even disagreement on the contents of the record of the May 1995 meeting. The groups of Brazil and Venezuela were to have sent their amendments to the project to the Colombia coordination and either they do not or this one does not receive them (impossible to know) but the project goes into paralysis

During the month of August, during the Course that took place in Cuiabá, an assistant of the regional coordinator (Fernando Medellín, Colombia) presented a working paper of the project. This meeting would have a good opportunity revise the project, but it was not taken advantage of for neither the regional coordinator nor the advisor that had been given a contract for the preparation of the project were there

By September 1995 when I met with the Colombia group in Bogotá they did not have the budget for the project yet. In any case there existed considerable discrepancy as far

as the possible amount, and in consequence, of the scale of the project. The Regional Coordination of EHIA was asking for a project with a 200 00 Canadian Dollars maximum for the three groups, and the proposal estimated globally a budget of 700 00 US\$ of which 400 000US\$ would be exclusively for Colombia By this time the regional coordinator from Colombia had already left the University and was working elsewhere. And the double messages persisted, the regional advisor expressed that he had not attended the Cuiabá meeting because he had no funds to do this and that there had been a mistake in the CIID contract, the documentation which I had received, signed by CIID officers, said that he did have those funds available

The Regional Coordination, in face of these difficulties, had presented a pre-project so as to be able to express the intention of its being developed and be considered in the consideration of funds. Later and by September 1995, the Regional Coordination sent to CIID a Research Program that was to serve as a framework within which the three projects of each of the three NRCs might be included. There will not be a "regional project" but a program, which may be just as useful for the ends of the project and have less difficulties as far as procedure is concerned.

The intention of this brief recount of the process is to express that I consider that an important activity was carried out on the part of the different national groups and of the national coordination to achieve the formulated objective, but the conflicts that were generated prevented that this could be negotiated, that cession take place and arrive at the necessary agreement for a multicentered project

It is important nevertheless that the period of implementation of the project is not yet finished, and that it might be possible that within the time remaining for the first part, the NRC might send their projects to the financing agency and the start of the research may be achieved

Related to Objective Nº 5

Objective N° 5 says

"Promote the permanent monitoring of the environment in close contact with community organizations, development agencies and political authorities"

This objective was not contemplated for the first stage and therefore cannot be evaluated Nevertheless it is necessary to say that there has existed on the part of all the NRC to related to the community and political authorities. In the case of Brazil it is important to point out the nexus that is maintained with the state government and the project that has permitted a greater closeness between the University and the state and municipal government. In the case of Colombia and Venezuela in a less notorious manner it is also possible to assert the same thing in relation to NGOs and other community organizations. Therefore the orientation given in the project for the achievement of this project may be considered positive though incipient.

Additional Commentaries by Country

Colombia

The choice of the Department of Anthropology as the place for the project at the Universidad de los Andes is an interesting choice for it allows for the presence of this perspective in a country that is living important changes since the promulgation of their new constitution which sets an important role for communities and environment. The project has its own space and has been able to generate common work with other university departments, as well as incorporating students to the work of the network.

As a particular feature in Colombia two researches were carried out financed by the project. One entitled "Evaluación cualitativa de servicios de salud dirigidos a menores de cinco años, su relación con el medio ambiente en Florencia, Caquetá Análisis del caso del Barrio "Las Américas" (Qualitative evaluation of health services oriented to children under five years, their relation to the environment in Florencia, Caquetá Analysis of the case of Barrio "Las Américas")" And the other "Leishmaniasis en San Vicente del Caguan, Caquetá Aproximación clínica, social y ambiental "(Leishmaniasis in San Vicente del Caguan, Caquetá Clinical, social and environmental approach) They are also in the process of considering for its financing the project "Recuperación del Saber Tradicional, Plantas

medicinales y medio ambiente en la Amazonía Colombiana (Río Caquetá)(Recovery of Traditional Knowledge, Medicinal plants and environment in the Colombian Amazoni (Río Caquetá))

The first project has reached its conclusion and is an important exploration in an urban zone of the Amazonia and has elements for a perspective of environmental health. But the Leishmaniasis project is a classical epidemiological project (incidence and parasite identification), with a CAP type instrument attached where one does not observe any perspective of EHIA, even though the research subject could provide an interest approach to environmental health. The same thing happens with the third project that has not been financed yet, which may be classical ethnobotany, but could have the possibility of being an environmental health project if the researchers had the necessary knowledge.

It appears that the fact that none of the two coordinators in Colombia had the opportunity of attending the training in Canada has retarded their understanding of the EHIA perspective and this has substracted assurance for the guidance of the project, and of course, did not make it possible that they transmit the perspective to the other participants. An acceptance of a stronger leadership would be important in the case of Colombia, certainly the Universidad de los Andes has a dynamics of relationship among the professor and department of a very special nature, but a little more enterprising spirit seems necessary, for the qualifications for a successful project exist

Brazıl

The team of Brazil is the one that has suffered more changes in its coordination and the one that presented more difficulties at the moment of carrying out the evaluation. It is necessary to say that the impact that the project had upon the Instituto de Saude Coletiva and the University has been very strong. It is possible to assert that in some manner the project has opened the door to multiple activities and financial agencies that have started supporting research protocols, granting scholarships for training or giving contracts to their professors as consultants. That is why in the report that is presented by the NRC many activities are mixed that cannot be attributed to the project, but to which it contributed

significantly This seems to be the key word in the activity of the project in Brazil an indirect product. That is why evaluating at this moment each of the objectives and the results are diluted ant it is not easy to state that they have not achieved them, but neither that they have not done so

Venezuela

Different from Brazil, the group of Venezuela reports activities that are concrete and direct. Perhaps one may say that on the contrary it is possible that they do not emphasize some achievements of inter and intrainstitutional cooperation that are very important, for the project and the graduate course has set to work together institutions and individuals that otherwise would have continued with their separate activities and that even though they were linked to the health and/or environmental theme, they were unable to produce the integration that is now being generated. In Venezuela research activities have not taken place, for the funds are being reserved to be used by the students of the masters course. The presence all along the project's development of the same group of professionals has contributed positively to the achievement of the objectives.

Critical Analysis.-

Macro Aspects

Relevance for the region

The projects results are of high importance for the region for the relevance of its theme it deals with as well as because of the need for the multidisciplinary tools it seeks to provide

Every day in the region a greater consciousness is evident of the need to assess the impacts of development projects upon the environment, on health, on culture and the organization of the communities. Yet, even if this is so, there does not exist a professional capacity that may assess the impacts that development actions might have upon environmental health.

Development programs will tend increase in the following years because of the proposals for border integration and the facilities for commerce among the different countries of the region. There will exist larger plans for bi-national areas, the highway programs will grow to facilitate commercial exchange and this will imply an increase in population and productive activity in Amazonia that will increase given the new facilities for air and land transportation in the Amazonian region.

In parallel there has been an increase in the awareness on the part of the Governments and organizations of civil society about the need to act with greater responsibility in relation to the impacts of these programs. But they do not have the tools to be responsible

Two examples of the norms that must be implemented and that justify the relevance of the project are the new Constitution of Colombia of 1991 that establishes as a constitutional right that "Every person has the right to a health environment" and that the "law will guarantee the participation of the community in decisions that might affect them." Also Law 99 of 1933 where environmental impact studies are regulated and the mechanisms for obtaining an environmental license. On the other hand Venezuela has the Reglamento Parcial de la Ley Orgánica del Ambiente sobre Estudios de Impacto Ambiental (N°2 213) (Partial Ruling of the Organic Law of the Environment on Environmental Impact Studies) of 1992 which establishes as obligatory environmental impact studies. Both laws imply the exercising of an activity for which there is not a critical mass capable of carrying it out, neither on the part of the State, nor on the part of the communities, nor on the part of consulting firms.

Civil society has increased awareness and changed attitude in relation to environmental issues Ecological denounce and criticism have given way to vigilant and constructive actions, but to be able to act with responsibility impact studies are required that may support the actions of the communities and NGOs

Also, in many cases the perspective that is assumed is that of impact upon "nature" and the possible damage to health, culture or communities is not considered. That is there is

a lack of a multidisciplinary perspective and many times not because of a conceptual decision, but simply because there is a practical lack of capacity to do it

Because of all of this the project is relevant for the region, for it permits both the training of personnel as the network perspective that makes it possible that approaches cease to be strictly national and go on to be regional, considering the interests and perspectives of the different countries, but also the different social and ethnic groups that are there involved

Pertinence of the objectives and the strategy.

The strategy expressed in the five objectives and consisting of the identification of institutions and individuals, training them in the area of EIA so that they may then apply it to specific project of impact assessment on environment and health and spread it by means of graduate courses and workshops and with the base relate to the communities and the authorities to increase awareness and prevent the effects of development projects, is highly adequate from the theoretical point of vies

Nevertheless, from the evaluation that has been done, it is possible to observe some limitations

What is being proposed is not simply a technique, it is a perspective, an approach, a manner of seeing the relation between society and nature. It is knowing and assessing the impact of a society that acts upon the environment and enjoys and suffers the consequences of its own action. And this is not simple to perceive or to assimilate to professional practices, therefore it requires of a period for maturity and greater effort to facilitate its assimilation on the part of participants in the project. In a certain way the success of all the strategy would be dependent upon the understanding of this perspective.

The effort in the training of the dynamizers of the project has been relative "small" given all it implies. What has been presented as the training of "senior" professors in Canada, the short courses is adequate, but little to what would be necessary to transmit this perspective.

But, on the other hand, the idea that training will be obtained "by doing" is adequate

It is true that as the research project is done and that they must dictate a course on EHIA, the participants will consolidate and expand their training

Yet, there is the risk-as in part has happened- that people will repeat in their research project or in their courses their previous professional mode of doing things, and will not learn the new but will simply once again do their projects or their classes on epidemiology, anthropology, etc

This may increase given the fact that people may fear to invest many efforts in a professional area different of their own, where they feel unsure, and where they are not certain that it may guarantee work in the future

In this sense the strategy should include greater vigilance on the part of the coordinating unit or some coordinating instance or direction that is attentive to this limitation

Pertinence of the structure

The structure of the project is made up of the Coordination Unit which relates to the National Reference Centers (NRCS) which in turn relate to the field stations called Centros de Apoyo a la Comunidad (CEACOS), seems adequate for the installation of the network and getting the project going

The implementation project of the structure of the project has been clearly an action "from the top down", the regional coordination gives impulse to the coordinators of the NRC, these select a local group, and later, the NRC will establish the CEACOs when is opportune, and which were not included in the first stage. As a strategy it seems adequate but we observe some limitations

- The absence of the CEACOS has made the project an activity which is dominantly of the universities, the creation of a single CEACO in each country will force the NRC to adopt a different perspective given the local reality and the demands that will derive from it
- Communication takes place between the NRCs and the regional coordination, there are almost no links among the NRC themselves

- The coordination of the NRC have turned out to be the weak point in the organization, for Brazil has changes in two opportunities and their now on to their third coordinator In Colombia the coordinator joined late due to other professional commitments, and later a joint coordination was established. In Venezuela although there was also a change of coordinator although due to internal reasons of the project. It seems very necessary to strengthen the leadership of the coordinator and seek to guarantee that they can deducate more time to the NRCs.
- In the NRCs the presence of additional personnel besides the coordinators should be ensured and se that this middle group of professionals participates more in the actions of the project, incorporate them more to the activities, courses and even a national directive level.
- The regional coordination unit is consolidated, but has little power to act towards the NRC At a first moment the regional coordination had great strength given the moral and charismatic weight of the coordinator, who was the founder and initiator of the project But, in his absence, formal mechanisms are required that grant strength to the regional coordination. This does not means an increase in its dimensions or functions, it requires clearer lines of direction.

Functioning for the achievement of objectives

The functioning process for the achievement of objectives was observed as satisfactory, the activities in some occasions took place later than planned, but the purpose was finally fulfilled Some aspects do deserve special attention

- One aspect of the functioning that affected the project is the fact that some of the persons that participated in its formation have not been the ones charged with some of the research responsibilities or have been left out of the project. That is that the multiplication of acquired learning has been made difficult
- Another important aspect of functioning has been the weak national leaderships, in the case of Brazil due to the change in coordinators in the cases of Colombia and Venezuela due to little disposition to exercise them. The situation in Venezuela anyway has been

different, since the existence of the regional coordination in the same city has concentrated regional and national leaderships and the results were different

- An important restriction for the functioning is the difficulties of one of the institutions (UFMT) to dispose with fluidity and opportunely of the funds because of their being centrally managed by the University. This is a circumstance that repeats itself in a large number of universities in Latin America. But it seems that in the near future the creation of a foundation will permit the a more agile procedure.
- The inclusion of an external advisor in the Gold Mining project created difficulties in the functioning for it resulted in bothered the national coordinators who protested the decision to the regional coordination, and competed with the regional coordination in its functions. The idea of incorporation someone who from the epidemiological point of view gave support to the group in Colombia, for there is no Faculty of Medicine at the Universidad de los Andes, seemed reasonable and it was so considered by the NRC of Colombia, but the results were counterproductive
- The existence of double regional coordination one academic and one administrative, in equal hierarchical conditions does not contribute to the good functioning of the project. One could not detect conflicts between the coordination but the existence of a double head creates confusion in the NRC where they don't know whom to address or decide this according to the convenience of the moment, and also the coordinators themselves, who see their action restricted by the other, or simply by consideration among themselves inhibit themselves from carrying out some actions that could be beneficial for the project Additionally the physical closeness of the previous coordinator (being situated in the same building) makes it so that in practice there exist three coordinators

About the criteria used for the selection of Centers

The criteria for the selection of the Centers were adequate and represent an

mteresting balance between two Universities with strong national leadership, as are the Department of Anthropology of the Universidad de los Andes and the CENDES of the Universidad Central de Venezuela, on one side, and on the other, a new center such as the Instituto de Saude Coletiva, without national leadership as is the Universidad Federal del Mato Grosso, but dedicated to the field of study and with need of strengthening

One must recognize that work must have been much easier for the NRCs of Colombia and Venezuela, for they are institutions with power to convoke ("poder de convocatoria") and a long tradition in research and support from foreign agencies. Therefore success was mitially more guaranteed in these centers. But the global imprint of the project at the Instituto de Saude Coletiva has been very strong.

The basic question is towards what should the selection of Centers be directed, towards those that are lacking or have limitation or towards those centers that have larger capacities and greater possibilities. I consider that from the point of view of the establishment of a network the decision that was taken is the correct one and should continue so in the future one should seek a combination of both types of centers. The combination guarantees that there is a place for centers and universities with greater limitations and that deserve to be strengthened in their potentialities, which, in a competition based simply on qualifications might left out. Still, a sum of centers where all have difficulties make it very hard for the networking. So the selection that combines centers with little development with those of greater tradition and capacity may contribute to the success of all, for these others may act as aid and model towards the less capable or recently established.

Another aspect of the selection is the placing of the Centers and their closeness to Amazonia Certainly (and in this case the members of the NRCs of Colombia and Venezuela agree) many of the activities and courses should take place in Amazonia But the communications between place in the Amazonia is not easy and placing it in a determined city of the Amazonia would anyway require the rest of the participants from other cities in the same Amazonia to transport themselves there. This situation has taken the Colombia NRC to study the possibility of having distance-courses, using the new communication

technologies by way of satellite, to reach the isolated persons and communities and not have to displace them from their habitual place for life and work

In face of this situation the way out appears to be having a good national network that combines Universities and groups placed in the Amazonia with others outside the region. In this sense there has been progress, the agreements in Venezuela between the UCV and UNEG in one direction, and the agreements between UFMT with the Escola de Saude Publica de la Fiocruz of Río de Janeiro, and in another direction these are good examples towards where should the action be headed

About the criteria for evaluation

The criteria for evaluation suggested and used in this report seem to be the adequate ones. Perhaps these should have been included among them, such as we have tried to do here, on one side the institutional aspects that allow one to evaluate the potentialities and limitation for the implementation of the project. And, on the other hand the group dynamics that may lead one to understand the manner in which the project has been carried out. One would try to generate with that an explanation of what happened in the project from an effort at comprehensive sociology that lets one see the capabilities and restrictions derived from the institutional space and the behavior of the actors.

Micro Aspects

Grade of acceptance and participation in the institutions of UNAMAZ

It was possible to interview the Director of the Instituto de Saude Colectiva Dr Joao Henrique Gurtler Scatena and the Rectora of the Universidad Federal de Mato Grosso, Dra Luiza de Guimaraes, the Dean of the Facultad de Humanidades of the Universidad de los Andes, Dra Elssy Bonilla, and the Director of the Centro de Estudios del Desarrollo de la Universidad Central de Venezuela, Dr Hemz Sonntag, and in all of them there exists important satisfaction with the project

Development achieved by the coordination unit.

The coordination unit is perhaps the instance of the project that has the greatest development, perhaps favored by the fact that they have personnel dedicated specially to the project, and with an important amount of resources assigned to it in relation to the rest of the project

An evident weakeness of the project and the Coordination Unit was the fact that Dr Luis Yarzábal left his functions as regional coordinator. It was so expressed by the members of the NRC who expressed their sorrow on his departure, but they also expressed their satisfaction for the support of the project Dr. Yarzábal has given and may give from his new position in UNESCO.

The answers given to this situation until now have been valid as temporal ones, but they are only softening of a situation of very little clearness of direction. The NRC do not recognize and with the strength that they should the regional coordination, perhaps because, since there are several, it results in there being none

This weakness is a challenge for the participants, for it ments the need for the constitution of a new leadership which, charismatically or organizationally, guides the project. It requires, and with relative speed, the formal designation of a coordinator to whom the direction of the project is handed and from whom dedication and fulfillment of duties is required. A prolonged lack of definition may seriously affect the coordination unit of the project and the project as a whole

The capacity to convoke.

The project has a very high capacity to convoke (capacidad de convocatoria) that has been underutilized, or perhaps one may say, that it still hasn't had time to take advantage of

This capacity to convoke other national groups is unequal, being very high in Colombia and Venezuela and less so in Brazil Nevertheless the NRC of Brazil is the one that has best used the project as seed for the preparation or betterment of new proposals that is has presented to CIID itself- on pollution by mercury in the Baixada Cuiabana-, as to

other instances such as the British Council, for a project on Health and Employment in the Mato Grosso-, to PRODEAGRO for the creation of a document center on Health and Environment-, and to French Cooperation for training linked to a project on Gold Mining and Health in Amazonia. The NRC of Venezuela has asked for funds internally from CONICIT Nevertheless in the NRC of Venezuela and Colombia the potentiality of the project to obtain additional and complementary resources for the project from government sources has not been well used

The regional coordination has also an important capacity that has been well used towards external sources and in the establishment of the UNESCO Chair, for joint activities with SELA (Economic System for Latin America), with INTERCIENCIA, in short, with multinational instances

Development of activities with groups of civil society

There have really very few activities developed with civil society, but this is due to the forced decision of not implementing the CEACOS and not carrying out the objective N°5 of the project in this first phase

Importance of the Second Phase-

The second phase of the project is somehow the moment of consolidation of the actions that have been implemented and to start gathering the fruits of the work that has been planted. The work done in this first stage is sufficiently valuable to leave it without continuity.

During this second stage the graduate course in Colombia should start, the first graduated from the graduate course in Venezuela and one should obtain a better integration of the perspective of EHIA in the graduate course in Brazil

In this second stage it is desirable and possible to prepare the research protocol on gold mining. There exists the information and the capacity, and once the difficulties have been solved, it is feasible to present it for funds and modest implementation.

In this second stage a CEACO is to be established in each country so as to complete the proposed organization. Nevertheless there should be care that in this second stage the CEACOs do no turn the project towards too much activism. In some way their importance in this second stage is pedagogical for all the participants, therefore emphasis should be placed in achieving the good performance of the model and not in increasing its scope.

In the end, it appears that it is necessary to wait until the maturity of the project takes place. The time that has passed is short and the difficulties have been diverse, but it seems that they have managed to overcome them. But more control and precision in goals and activities to carry out, a stronger regional coordination and more strongly committed national coordinators.

Suggestions for the Second Phase.-

The fundamental suggestions for the second phase would be the following

- Precise goals and activities should be established to be carried out by each of the NRC and link the budgeted funds to these goals
- It must be made clear that the project is a punctual support with specific goals and not a generic support to the institution
- There should be insistence and investment of time and funds to consolidate the understanding of the EHIA perspective in all of the participants of the NRC and national networks
- The double (or triple) regional coordination should be eliminated and a regional coordinator should be formally designated. If it is so desired a "steering committee" or "follow-up" of the project committee could be constituted for support of a person that could act as its executive secretary, but with sufficient authority to be able to stimulate and demand the fulfillment on the part of the NRCs. Any decision may be valid and have its own "fors and againsts", what is evident is that non-decision, and the continuity of a confuse situation in terms of authority and leadership can be deadly for the project
 - An effort should be made to consolidate the national coordination and a sustained

leadership at national level

- Training should be taken to the middle level of the national hierarchical structure, that is, involving more other professionals linked to the project who should increase their understanding of the EHIA perspective. This may be done through large groups at international level courses or to insist more on national courses.
- The effort to consolidate national networks should be increased, incorporating other institutions as the place for training courses or workshops. The NRC of Brazil should develop a strategy of peers to be able to consolidate the network, not pretending to be the leader but the facilitator of the process. Persons from the institutions that one wishes to connect should be invited to the activities developed by the NRC in Mato Grosso.
- The proposal of a common research should be taken up agam, for this would force an implementation of the learning on EHIA by the proponent group and will provide experience and authority to take it to other national institutions. The protocol should be understood as a project-school where the product to expect are not only the cognitive results that derive from it, but the learning by the professionals and institutions involved and the process of network construction that is strengthened by having to share concepts and data for interpretation of reality. In this sense the project could taken up once again by the regional coordination, and adequate it in scale to the training purpose. Even if the former coordinator at regional has offered with good will to continue in that role, it does not seem convenient since he is now working outside the institution where the NRC of Colombia is situated. The project should be moved in Colombia from CIDER to the Anthropology Department. In Brazil it should be linked to the new National Coordinator, who has the advantage of having been trained in Canada and who could make of it a personal research project.
- There could be some type of scholarships for the students of the graduate courses in Venezuela and Colombia once the specialization course there begins. The cohort of graduate students will be the best product of the project, for they will have an integration of the perspective even better than the professors that have taught them. These scholarships

would be attractive to students and institutions and would permit a better dedication to the course and full dedication to study could be required

- The establishment of a small program of small "grants" for research leading to the masters thesis could be an adequate strategy But there should be an international committee-such as the steering committee- that would evaluate the projects and not the national NRC, this would have two advantages, on one side it would eliminate the uncomfortable part of evaluation and a possible feeling against national coordination who must maintain their role of promoters. On the other hand, at the same time it would guarantee an EHIA perspective, it would strengthen the sense of network and of participating in a common process within the group
- The insertion of the graduate students in the regional research project seems to be another alternative to be considered. This is the most classical road to training of graduate students, but in this case it would require very clearly that the professors have a principal role in the regional research. For the professors the research project should become "their" project, an activity in which they participate as researchers and not just as managers.
- Special effort should be made to help in the integration of the aspects of health and environment in the graduate course at the Universidad Federal del Mato Grosso, as well as in the insertion of the EHIA perspective in the students program. The possibility of workshops for the professors or a special course for the graduate students could contribute to this end, for it would consolidate the graduate course and would make it easier to achieve the objectives of the EHIA project
- At least one, but no more than two CEACOs should be established in each country. The effort of integration with the community is very important, but it takes up a lot of time, it implies quite a lot of work, and it is an activity for which the participants of the project have not necessarily been trained for

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Many of these suggestions may begin to be applied immediately, for, since there is time left for the end of the first phase, they would be beneficial for the project without having to wait for the second phase for their implementation

Roberto Briceño-León, Dr

Caracas, October 1995

(SCALE. 3: good; 2: regular; 1. bad)

OBJECTIVES E	ACTIVITIES	E EXPECTED RESULTS	E SCOPE	E IMPACTS	E
Objective No 1 Create an Institutional Inetwork that Inetw		Three NRC selected Three agreements signed between UNAMAZ and the institutions members of the network Tesponsible at the institutions for the fulfillment of the program's objectives Explicit recognition on the part of the authorities of the existence of a technical team and its responsibility in the program Annual workplans presented to consideration of the institutional authorities and discussed at program level (NRC and Coordination Unit Equal number of agreements and identified and selected institutions A communication system established between NRCs and Coordination Unit	Research groups/NRC Researchers at the national institutions Graduate courses professors, workshop instructors and speakers at the seminars Authorities of the member institutions	Active participation of the research groups (NRC- National Centers) Participation of professors, instructors an speakers Satisfaction of the research groups Satisfaction of the professors in relation to the program's progress Satisfaction of the program's progress progress progress	3 ad 3 af 3

(SCALE: 3: good; 2: regular; 1: bad)

OBJECTIVES	E ACTIVITIES	E EXPECTED RESULTS E	SCOPE	E	IMPACTS	E
Facilitate the training of a minimum number of researchers, professionals and technicians to carry out assessment of adverse impacts upon environment and health	Study Grant to 3 "senior" professors to attend courses on environmental health impact assessment at university centers in Canada National Workshops (Multidiscipli nary) for researchers, professionals and technicians Regional Course on EIA for directors of NRC, personnel of the Coordination Unit and Executive Secretariat of UNAMAZ	basic training in EIA, capable of exercising a multiplier effect when returning from their training • 24 researchers of the institutions of the national networks with basic training in EIA • N high level professionals belonging to the NRC, the Coordination Unit and the Secretariat of UNAMAZ with basic training in EIA	personnel at the National Reference Centers Professional personnel at the institutions affiliated to	2	• 3 National networks with duly structured with personnel with basic training	2

(SCALE: 3: good; 2: regular; 1: bad)

OBJECTIVES E	ACTIVITIES	E	EXPECTED RESULTS	E	SCOPE	E	IMPACTS	E
Strengthen the scientific and technological capacity of the institutions of the region to incorporate and create knowledge, technologies and strategies that may permit the study, assessment and mitigation of such effects	• Acquire and install communication equipment (fax-computer) at each of the 3 NRC and at the Coordination Unit • Two graduate level courses at masters level • One UNESCO chair on environment, health and sustainable development		3 electronic communication systems working at each national network and one at the Coordination Unit Two graduate courses working with the inclusion of thematic contents directly related to the objectives of the program UNESCO chair approved and in its instrumentation phase	2	Professional personnel in the countries Members of national teams	3	• National institutions with infrastructure that permits high quality training	3

2

(SCALE: 3: good; 2: regular; 1: bad)

OBJECTIVES E	E	ACTIVITIES	E	EXPECTED RESULTS	E	SCOPE	E	IMPACTS	E
Objective no - 4 Study and prevent the effects of development projects to be implemented or of those that have been implemented in the region	2	• International meeting to identify 1 project for assessment of impacts upon environment and health, or program or process • Prepare a research protocol • Presentation of proposal to a financing agency	2	• A proposal for a research project on environmental health impact assessment of a program or development process presented for consideration of a financing agency		• The 3 NRC • Communities selected for the study	1	• Strengthening of the interdiscipli nary interinstitut ional research network • Training of researchers in the EIA field	2

(SCALE: 3: good; 2: regular; 1: bad)

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OBJECTIVES	E	ACTIVITIES	E	EXPECTED RESULTS	E	SCOPE	E	IMPACTS	E
Promoting permanent monitoring of environment in close contact with community organizations, development agencies and political authorities		• Workshops oriented to work with communities and NGOs • Small projects conceived with close linkages to community groups • Fundamental activities are not contemplated for the 1st phase		Identification of EHIA projects of interest for the community Activities by NGOs for health monitoring		NGOs of the region Governmental authorities in the region		• Participation of the community in activities related to EHIA • Increase in the awareness of community groups in relation EHIA	

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ANEXO 1

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Programa de Postgrado en Evaluación de Impactos sobre Salud y Ambiente

Mención Amazonía

CENDES

INFORME ANUAL

(1993-1994)

Evaluación de Impactos sobre Salud Ambiental en la Amazonia.

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Organizacion de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (UNESCO)

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UNIVERSIDAD DE LOS ANDES

PROYECTO

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DESCRIPCION Y ANALISIS DE LA MUESTRA DEL SERVICIO SECCIONAL DE SALUD DEL CAQUETA.

Maria del Pilar Diaz

DESCRIPCION Y ANALISIS DE LA MUESTRA DE FUNCIONARIOS OPERT AIVOS -HOSPITAL MARIA INMACULADA Y CENTRO ZONAL DEL ICBF-

Maria del Pilar Diaz

DESCRIPCION Y ANALISIS DE LA MUESTRA DE MAESTROS

Mana del Pilar Díaz

DESCRIPCION Y ANALISIS DE LA MUESTRA DE MADRES COMUNITARIAS.

María del Pılar Díaz

DESCRIPCION DE LA SUBMUESTRA DE MADRES

Maria del Pılar Diaz

ANEXO 2 LISTA DE PERSONAS ENTREVISTADAS PARA LA REALIZAQCION DE LA EVALUACION DEL PROYECTO EISA

UNIDAD COORDINADORA

Dr. Luis Yarzabal
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Dra. Dulce Loreto
Coordinadora Administrativa Regional
Dra. Lourdes Yero
Coordinadora Académica Regional

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Decana de Humanidades

Dr. Fabricio Cabrera

Jefe del Departamento de Antropologia

Dra. Laurie Cardona

Coordinadora de Colombia - CNR

Dr. Roberto Pineda

Coordinador de Colombia - CNR

Dra. Blanca de Corredor

Antropóloga responsable del proyecto Recuperación del saber tradicional, plantas medicinales y medio ambiente en la Amazonía Colombiana

Antr. María del Pılar Díaz

Coordinadora del Proyecto de Investigación

Evaluacion Cualitativa de Servicios de Salud dirigidos a menores de 5 años, su relacion con el medio ambiente en Florencia, Caquetá

Dr Carlos Espinal

Asesor del CIID del Proyecto Mineria de Oro

Bio Patricia Fuya

Estudiante de la Maestría, y participante en el proyecto de Leishmaniasis en San Vicente del Caguan

Dr. Felipe Guhl

Departamento de Ciencias Biológicas

Universidad de Los Andes

Sr. Andrés Luque

Coordinador de la Red Colombia

Antr. Fernando Medellín

Coordinador Regional del Proyecto de Minería de Oro

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Prof Jorge Díaz Polanco Coordinador CNR-Venezuela

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Coordinador del Postgrado de Ciencias Ambientales

Universidad Nacional Experimental de Guayana

Prof Antonio De Lisio

Director del CENAMB

Dr. Alex Ferguson

Instituto de Zoología Tropical

Facultad de Ciencias

Universidad Central de Venezuela

Dr. Alexis Rodríguez

Director del Instituto de Medicina Tropical

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Dr Manuel Salınas

Coordinador Maestría en Salud Ocupacional

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Prof. Francisco Javier Velazco

Prof Investigador del CENDES

Cursantes en la Maestría en Evaluación de Impacto sobre Salud y Ambiente

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Lic en Trabajo Social

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