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de Alimentos

Executive Board  
Third Regular Session

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## REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

### Agenda item 9



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## DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY - 30 JUNE 1998) - COLOMBIA 5738.00

### Ecologically sustainable development in the Colombian Andes

Duration of project	Three years
Number of beneficiaries	26 250
Total cost to WFP	5 328 234 dollars
Total food cost	2 880 075 dollars
Total cost to Government	7 130 862 dollars
Food requirement	17 455 tons

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars.

### ABSTRACT

Close to 5,250 indigent families live in isolated highland watersheds which constitute the buffer zones of four national parks in Colombia. These families cultivate potatoes, maize and beans on kitchen gardens, rarely hold title to the lands they occupy, are isolated from markets, have no formal employment and cut down trees for illicit sale of lumber. Their lives are periodically disrupted by a variety of armed rural groups of different political persuasions. WFP and the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) propose to initiate a series of training sessions geared towards introducing the mountain dwellers to self-help productive agricultural packages, combined with improved environmental practices and upgraded health and education infrastructure. MOE will provide national and regional staff to catalyze the participating communities, other government institutions, United Nations agencies and NGO partners, as well as institutional and technical support and follow-up. WFP will distribute 86 family rations annually for each of the 5,250 families for three years to motivate participation and provide food while they are engaged in self-help work and training. Careful beneficiary registration and application of entitlement criteria will be implemented to ensure that assistance reaches the poorest and, among these, women and children in particular. The six commodities in the ration have been carefully selected to meet daily energy and protein requirements, and coincide with local tastes and availability in local markets. WFP-imported wheat will be exchanged for local products: maize, dried green peas, canned fish, vegetable oil, fortified pasta and a sugar-cane drink known locally as *agua de panela*. The ration to be distributed has a local market value equivalent to nearly 50 percent of the minimum daily wage for agricultural labour.

WFP resources will be used for direct food distribution. In addition, a small food security fund will be made available by the Government to individuals and communities who have received the training course and need seed capital to initiate a productive activity. This project, which joins the efforts of WFP and MOE, has been prepared following the deliberations of Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

## NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

### **This document is submitted for information to the Executive Board.**

Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session of 1996, the documentation prepared by the Secretariat for the Board has been kept brief and decision-oriented. The meetings of the Executive Board are to be conducted in a business-like manner, with increased dialogue and exchanges between delegations and the Secretariat. Efforts to promote these guiding principles will continue to be pursued by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat therefore invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff member(s) listed below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting. This procedure is designed to facilitate the Board's consideration of the document in the plenary.

The WFP focal points for this document are:

Regional Director: J. Conway tel.: 066513-2207

Programme Coordinator: O. Bula tel.: 066513-2735

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 066513-2641).

