INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH ON THE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN POPULATION, DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT (PRIPODE)

APPLICATION FORM

Application deadline: 28 February 2003
(electronic file)

To complete the application form follow the instructions given in the instruction note

Dossier n° __________

Do not fill in

Received __________

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Title of the project

Environmental Degradation, Risk Construction and Vulnerability in the Caribbean

Name of the person in charge

Lourdes Meyreles

Applicant Centre

Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales FLACSO, Dominican Republic Program

Country

Dominican Republic
# I - PROJECT SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>1. Project Title:</strong></th>
<th>Environmental Degradation, Disaster Risk Construction and Vulnerability in the Caribbean</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Name of person in charge:</strong></td>
<td>Lourdes Meyreles</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3. Address of the person in charge:</strong></td>
<td>Postal address: Calle José Joaquín Pérez, No. 106, Gazcue. Apartado Postal 332-9, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic</td>
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<td></td>
<td>E-mail address: <a href="mailto:lourdesmeyreles@hotmail.com">lourdesmeyreles@hotmail.com</a>, <a href="mailto:comite.flacso@codetel.net.do">comite.flacso@codetel.net.do</a></td>
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<td>Telephone: (809) 686-3654/58</td>
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<td>Fax: (809) 686-4044</td>
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<td><strong>4. Centres or teams involved in the project:</strong></td>
<td>Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, FLACSO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Number of researchers involved in the project:</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
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<td><strong>6. Disciplines concerned by the project:</strong></td>
<td>Sociology, Geography, Agronomy, Development and Gender Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>7. Area(s) of research:</strong></td>
<td>Dominican Republic, Cuba and Haiti</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>8. Key words describing the project (between 2 and 4 per heading):</strong></td>
<td>Population: migration, vulnerability, capacities, growth</td>
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<td>Development: policies, models, institutions and organizations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Environment: sustainable, disaster risk, degradation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Geographical field: Haiti, Dominican Republic, Cuba</td>
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<td>Methods of analysis: comparative, case studies, qualitative</td>
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<td>Sources of data: documentary, statistical, empirical, geographical</td>
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</table>
9. Summary of the project (no more than one page):

The project aims at establishing links between development processes, population policies, migratory trends, environmental degradation and disaster risk in three Caribbean island countries: Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. The three countries show differences and share experiences which make the comparative study of their situations very useful to policy making and implementation in these areas.

The research process will analyse existing research data on population and development policies and carry out empirical research in the areas where there has been little work done such as environmental degradation and disaster management, specially in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. This will enable comparative case studies on pertinent communities in the three countries.

Research results will be shared with community members and experts in order to disseminate results and contribute to better practice capacity building and policy making.

II – DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT (no more than 5 pages)

This description is left to the discretion of the candidates. It must, however include the following: the problem studied, the national importance of the problem, the relevance for policies on sustainable development, scientific objectives (problems covered by the research, working hypotheses, etc.), data (indicating among the data needed those which are already available and those which need to be collected), methodology (with emphasis on the concepts used), use and dissemination of results, bibliography.

What impacts do development and population trends and policies have on the environment? In detail we are interested in studying specifically how population and development policies impact degradation and risk construction and if /how this circle closes when risks impact population trends and development processes.

As we know, risk scenarios are becoming more complex. Climate change, for example to name one global impacting condition, has had and will continue to have important effects such as unstable climate, alterations in rainfall and drought patterns, increase in phenomena such as Hurricanes and Monsoons, out of season and with increased magnitude. The impact of technology has contributed to the increase in human caused risks. Global changes in economic and political systems and conflicts have had enormous impact on population trends in migration, refugee situations. All these have negatively influenced development processes and efforts around the world, increasing development costs.

Different organizations and institutions worldwide have addressed this situation and are interested in dedicating efforts and resources to it’s study. For example, in the case of disasters, their growth in frequency and impact led to the United Nations International Decade for Disaster Reduction. (UN; 1989) This has led to new perspectives and action strategies such as the risk management perspective which includes a socio natural view of the problem.
The Caribbean Region is a specially vulnerable region in all of the aspects which are involved in the population, development, environment relation: economic vulnerability, political vulnerability and environmental, both regarding natural hazards and human made ones.

The majority of the Caribbean populations are exposed to natural phenomena; are victims of exclusion and marginalization; of unequal access to resources; absence of social security, among other negative conditions. In this light, the Caribbean populations are populations at risk, given the socio economic, cultural and political characteristics of the majority’s lives. Despite efforts by the national, regional and international community to advance development in the region, the region’s history and political situations have complicated development scenarios. Poverty characterizes Caribbean populations: in the Dominican Republic, for example, according to the most recent and complete poverty study in the country, (ONAPLAN: 1986) 56.7% of Dominican homes are living in poverty conditions. This percentage corresponds to more than a million homes. 19% of homes live in extreme poverty. This means 4.6 million poor and 1.6 million extreme poor. The poorest groups in the region will be the most vulnerable and in this sense poor women in the region and their children can be considered to be one of the most vulnerable groups.

As in other third world countries, and in general everywhere, women and their children are the poorest population. The tendency for women to be heads of households is more and more frequent around the world and so in the Caribbean region, where women have the highest levels of labor force participation in the world. For example in the Dominican Republic women make up 49% of the population, and over 50% of the urban population. (Bueno: 2000)

The process of economic growth, in Latin American and Caribbean countries which have gone through rapid urbanization, dependent industrial and productive development, has resulted in a process which increases exclusion, poverty, concentration of wealth, the emergence of an enormous informal sector and increased migration among other things, despite transitions in their political systems towards more democratic ones. (Bueno: 2000: pg 8) This development process has created particular patterns related to natural resource access, use and management, access and location of settlements, access to basic services for local and national populations as well as for migrant populations, specifically illegal ones. These have increased and created new risk situations and new and more frequent disaster situations. There have been national and regional efforts to deal with situations regarding these aspects which are necessary to analyze.

The Caribbean region is made up of third world countries with all the economic, social and political characteristics of third world countries. The Caribbean can also be characterized as a region rich in varied cultural expressions: language, religion, art, music, political structures, with a sincretic nature, corresponding to it’s historical formation. Also a region rich in natural resources and biodiversity. In this sense, it is urgent that
development models and processes prioritize taking steps to preserve what is peculiar and valuable to this region.

The Region is in need of advancing towards a real sustainable development process understood in all its dimensions: economic, (optimal resource use and distribution), social (equity, and distributive justice) and environmental (sustainability and optimal use of resources and the environment) in a way in which the human social dynamics does not adversely affect the natural environment and vice versa.

The local perspective in these issues is fundamental. The development processes undertaken by the different countries under study need to be understood in their impact aspect and this is best done at the local level. It is also at this level where we can impact communities in order to insure better practices and monitor how decentralization efforts have been implemented in the different systems and country settings.

At the regional and national levels different sectors involved in development processes have analyzed and conceptualized the relation between some of the issues we are interested in and have developed and applied policies at both levels. In this context it is of importance to take a close look at real situations with a comparative view.

**Scientific Problem:**

- What have been the regional and local development tendencies in the last decades which affect the countries under study?
- What have been the main policies in the last decades in the three countries under study linking population, development and environment?
- What is the environmental situation regarding degradation processes in the three countries?
- What are the risk scenarios regarding hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities in specific communities in the three countries?

**Objectives**

General: Develop a comparative analysis between different communities in Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti regarding environmental degradation and risk construction in relation to population and development policies with a gender perspective.

Specific Objectives:

- Analyze development, population and environmental policies and models in the three countries in the last decades.
- Develop data linking how policies in these three areas have impacted population and migratory trends.
- Develop data in order to analyze natural resource use and management and environmental degradation process in the communities under study.
- Develop data in order to analyze risk and disaster conditions and management in the communities under study.
• Share research results with important actors in the community and at the national and regional levels regarding action and policy making.
• Share results with the national and international community through the publication of results.

Research Methodology:

The research will have as it’s epistemological center an interdisciplinary perspective and a gender perspective. This implies an “opening” of the traditional social science perspective in the terms Inmanuel Wallerstein has made well known. This implies the use of a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods which will include, Geographical Information Analysis, GIS, and cartographic information, analysis of existing literature and documents, statistics, consultation of experts; empirical methods such as the survey; in depth interviews, and focal groups.

Regarding the empirical methods, surveys will be conducted to a representative sample of the population in the communities under study. From these, we will acquire enough general and specific information to permit us to identify important informants (eg migrants, community leaders, persons in specially vulnerable situations, persons linked to specific productive practices which impact environment, etc.) with whom we will conduct in depth interviews. This means that there will be two basic interview methods: the survey, with structured questions to a preselected representative sample, to collect general sociodemographic and economic information; and in-depth interviews, less structured and more open, to selected special informants in each community, through which we will obtain information regarding specific variables and their relations, eg environmental degradation - productive practices - migratory trends-gender-risks and vulnerability, development and demography. This will be complemented with focus groups: group interviews (directed group discussions) to selected, important groups in the three communities under study to understand more dynamic aspects of the variables under study.

Research results should contribute to:
• Further the analytical framework for unresolved conceptual, methodological and practical problems in the field of study in the region.
• Further the debate on environmental degradation, risk construction, management and vulnerability in relation to development models and policies.
• Better practice in risk and disaster management, natural resource use and management at the local level and in policy making regarding the main topics at the national and regional levels.
Pertinent Bibliography

Asociación de Estados del Caribe : December 1999 ; Integrando el Caribe. V Reunión Ordinaria del Consejo de Ministros.


Beck, Ulrich. 1998. La sociedad del riesgo; Paidos, Buenos Aires.


CEPAL. 1998 República Dominicana: Evaluación de los daños ocasionados por el Huracán Georges, (sus implicaciones para el desarrollo del país); con el auspicio del Secretariado Técnico de la Presidencia.


Cuarta Conferencia Mundial sobre la Mujer. 1997. Plataforma de Acción: Objetivo Estratégico K Mujer y Medio Ambiente; UN, INSTRAW.

Cuba. Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente : 1997 ; Cuba: Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo. Datos e informaciones. La Habana. CIDCA

Cuba. CITMA. 1999 ; Síituación ambiental cubana 1998. La Habana. CIDCA

DAC Guidelines for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Development Co-operation . 1998, Organization for Economic Co-operation adn Development, OECD.

Domenach Hervé y Picouet Michel, 2000, Population et environnement, Presses Universitaires de France, collection “Que sais-je.?” n°3556, 128 pages

Domenach Hervé and Picouet Michel, 2002, Pression démographique et environnement : incertitude et perplexité, Cahiers français, n°306, pp. 86-93,


__________. 2002a. “Bajos de Haina. Community Profile”; informe para el proyecto Assessing Women’s Vulnerability to Disasters at the local Level; FIU, CDMHA. No publicado.

__________ 2002. “San Antonio de Guerra. Community Profile”; informe para el proyecto Assessing Women’s Vulnerability to Disasters at the local Level; FIU, CDMHA. No publicado.


Morillo, Antonio. 1997: La focalización de la pobreza en la República Dominicana; Onaplan, SantoDomingo, versión digital.

ONE. Censo Nacional de Población, 1993. República Dominicana


III - THE TEAM

1. Person in charge

Name: **Meyreles** ........................................ First name: **Lourdes** .................................

Sex: **Female** ........................................ Date of birth: **19/02/57** ............................

Nationality: Dominican.............................................................

Current position: **Coordinator of the Social Studies of Environment and Disaster Program at FLACSO, D. R.** .................................................................

2. The Centre

*(the Centre is the institution which will receive the funds if the project is selected)*

Name: **Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales** ......................................................

Acronym: **FLACSO** .............................................................................................................

Postal address: **Apartado Postal 332-9, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic** ......................................................

Telephone: **(809) 686-3654/58** .......... Fax: **(809) 686-4044** ...........................................

Give the complete name and position of the person representing the organisation:

Name: **Rubén Silié** .....................................................................................................................

Position: **Director, Dominican Republic Program**

3. Table of the members of the team

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>First name</th>
<th>Parent organisation</th>
<th>Proportion [a]</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meyreles</td>
<td>Lourdes</td>
<td>Flacso, DR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domenach</td>
<td>Hervé</td>
<td>IRD, France</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruiz</td>
<td>Victor</td>
<td>Flacso, DR</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trimino</td>
<td>Gilberto</td>
<td>CEDEM, Un. De la Habana</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Cabrera</td>
<td>Juan</td>
<td>Consultant, Cuba</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Nelson</td>
<td>Frantzie</td>
<td>Consultant, Haiti</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Souchaud</td>
<td>Sylvain</td>
<td>IRD, France</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</tbody>
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[a]: proportion (in %) of working time dedicated to the project
4. Individual forms

Researchers taking part in the project for more than 30% of their working time must each fill out an individual form

INDIVIDUAL FORM (one for each member of the research team)

Name: Meyreles.................................. First name: Lourdes.........................
Sex: Female .................................. Date of birth: 19/02/57 ....................
Nationality: Dominican .................................................................
Organisation: Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales  FLACSO ......
Complete address:
Calle Jose Joaquin Perez, 106, Gazcue . Apartado Postal 332-9..................
City: Santo Domingo.................. Country: Dominican Republic ...........
Telephone: 809-686-3654/58........ Fax: 809 686-4044.........................
E-mail address:
lourdesmeyreles@hotmail.com, comite.flacso@codetel.net.do

Current position: Coordinator Social Studies on Environment and Disaster Project........................................

Main degrees (title, University, year):
Licenciatura in Sociology, Universidad Nacional Pedro Henriquez Ureña, 1980, .................................................................
Masters in Gender and Development Studies, Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo, 1984........................................

Discipline(s) specialised in: Gender and development studies, social study of the environment and disasters, gender and disasters, gender and environment......................................................

Professional experience, notably in research:

1998 - Present. Coordinator, Social Study of the Environment and Disasters Project at the Latin American Social Science Faculty (Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, FLACSO), Dominican Republic Program.
Responsible for all research activity in this project which includes:
Vulnerability assessment of low income women in the Caribbean at the local level, FIU, CDMHA, FLACSO;
Environmental degradation and risk construction in Guatemala, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, Ford Foundation;
Historical Inventory of Natural Disasters in the Dominican Republic, IDB, LA RED, Dominican Government, among others.

1997. Co-Coordinator, Education Component, Women and Production Modules for the Prodas/INTEC project, Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo. This was part of a regional development program for the San Juan de la Maguana southern province funded by the Interamerican Development Bank.

1994-1997. Director, Social Science Area, National Education Program for Teachers, PRODEP/INTEC.

1993-1995. Co-coordinator of the Social Science Area for the National Education Program for Teachers, PRODEP/INTEC

1993 Member of the Interdisciplinary Group GID. This group carried out various research activities as a pilot project for Interdisciplinary group formation in the region funded by the Consortium of Caribbean Universities and the University of the West Indies. Some of the research activities carried out were:


Curriculum Development Project on Social Perspective on Disasters in the Caribbean 1997

**Five main publications during the last five years relating to PRIPODE:**

Evaluación Rural Rápida, Los Dajaos, Jarabacoa, Republica Dominicana; Grupo Interdisciplinario para el Manejo de Recursos Naturales en Cuencas Hidrográficas GID y Universidad de Cornell; Universidad Nacional Pedro Henriquez Ureña, UNPHU y Cornell University; Santo Domingo, 1994. (co-author)


Working with Women. Guidelines for Vulnerability Assessmen at the Local Level ; FIU, CDMHA. 2002. (Collaborator)
INDIVIDUAL FORM (one for each member of the research team)

Name: Domenach.................................. First name: Hervé.................................
Sex: male .................................. Date of birth: 07/02/50...................
Nationality: France ..............................................................................................
Organisation: IRD ............................................................................................
..................................................................................................................
Complete address: 15, chemin des Gardes, 13100 Aix en provence.........
City: Aix en Provence ............... Country: France ................................
Telephone: 33 – (0)4 42 93 06 04 ..... Fax: 33 – (0)4 42 93 01 98 ..............
E-mail address: domenachhh@wanadoo.fr....................................................
Current position: Director of researches on population and environment .....  
Main degrees (title, University, year):
Docteur en économie du développement, 1984, Université de Clermont Ferrand

Professional experience, notably in research:


b) En matière d'analyse et de mesure de la main-d'œuvre et des diverses formes d'activité. Recherche de critères de classification intégrant les données des secteurs traditionnels et informels de l'activité économique ; mesure du volume et des caractéristiques de chaque catégorie, évaluation des activités marginales et des flux d'entrée et de sortie de la population active et de la propension à migrer. Appliqué dans un premier temps, sous convention avec l'INSEE, aux quatre départements d'Outre-mer français (Guadeloupe, Guyane, Martinique et Réunion / 1977 - 1983), ce modèle a été adapté ensuite à Trinidad et Tobago, en Tunisie, au Congo, au Nicaragua (1982 - 1986).

c) En matière de migrations, avec une recherche théorique sur les méthodes de mesure et sur les typologies (Cf. publications) et la participation à diverses commissions scientifiques sur ce thème. Réalisation d'études avec enquêtes migratoires (Argentine, Floride, Haïti, Guyane, Venezuela...) et analyse de données avec conséquences en termes de planification démo-économique. Research associate (séjour 1992 - 1993) à Florida State
University pour une étude sur l’impact des migrations caraïbéennes dans l’Etat de Floride.
Etude en cours des processus migratoires dans le MERCOSUR avec réalisation d’enquêtes en partenariat avec l’OIM et les universités de Buenos Aires, Cochabamba, Cordoba, Jujuy, Tarija.


**Autres activités**

- Co-directeur de la collection « Populations » aux Editions L’Harmattan.
- Membre du Comité de Rédaction de la Revue Européenne des Migrations Internationales (publication trimestrielle).
- Enseignement :
  * En France :
    DEA de la Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l’Homme, DEA “Environnement“ à l’université d’Orléans,
    DEA “Migrations : espaces et sociétés“ à l’université de Poitiers.
  * À l’étranger :
    Universités de Buenos Aires, Cordoba et Jujuy, (Argentine),
    Universités de Cochabamba et Tarija (Bolivie),
    Université de Hanoï (Vietnam),
    Université de Floride (USA)
  * Direction de 6 thèses en cours à l’Université de Paris V et à l’université de Provence.
- Diverses conférences pour des universités et l’OIM – Amérique latine notamment.

**Five main publications during the last five years relating to PRIPODE:**

1992 - *Caraïbe / Migrations*.

DOMENACH Hervé et PICOUET Michel,

La dimension migratoire des Antilles

Editions ECONOMICA, 255 pages.

1995 - *Migrations / Méthodologie*.

DOMENACH Hervé et PICOUET Michel,

Les migrations

Collection “Que sais-je?”, 128 pages.

Editions Presses Universitaires de France,

1998 - *Migrations / Mercosur*

DOMENACH Hervé et CELTON Dora

La comunidad boliviana en Córdoba, caracterización y proceso migratorio.

291 pages,

Editions Copiar (Argentine)
2000 - *Migrations / Méthodologie.*
DOMENACH Hervé *et* PICOUET Michel,
Population et environnement
Collection “Que sais-je?”, 128 pages.
Editions Presses Universitaires de France,

2001 - *Nations Unies / Population et développement*
DOMENACH Hervé *et* PICOUET Michel (dir. sc.)
Contribution de la France à la 34ème session de la Commission de la population et du développement de l’ONU, Ministères de l’emploi et de la solidarité et Ministère des Affaires étrangères, 104 pages.
5. Presentation of the team (no more than 2 pages)

Indicate the origin of the team, the institutions the researchers are affiliated to, the means available to the team, the comparative advantages of the team, the specific objectives of the team in terms of training, and of the dissemination and transfer of results, the organisations the team is working with and its needs in terms of expertise and consulting for it to be able carry out the project.

The interdisciplinary Team is composed of well qualified researchers, specialized in in-country and regional research. The Team has been working in the recent past specifically on environmental issues including agriculture patterns, water use and management, disaster and risk management, gender and environment, and gender and disasters.

The interdisciplinary research team has had previous working experience in other Flacso projects, separately and together. Affiliated to Universities in Cuba and Haiti, to the Flacso Network in South, Central America and the Caribbean, the Environmental and Disaster Program which will be in charge of this research activity has previously done research in Cuba and the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, El Salvador, Dominica and St. Lucia.

The Team has office space and equipment at Flacso offices in the Dominican Republic which includes a computer and internet, fax and telephone facilities. The Team has also personal working equipment in Cuba and Haiti, computers with internet access. At Flacso offices the Team has secretarial support, research assistance, access to Flacso’s specialized documentation center as well as to specialized centers in the Flacso network in South and Central America and the Caribbean and also others in the region. Flacso offices in the Dominican Republic also provide ample space for meetings and Seminars related to the project. The Team will greatly benefit from Flacso networking, which gives it access not only to documentation but to specialized personnel in the different areas relevant to the research. The Team will also have the collaboration of specialists in the different countries and of research centers.

Team members have expertise in collaborative research and consultation with different types of organizations and institutions. Regarding Universities, the Team has experience with the Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (Santo Domingo Institute of Technology) INTEC, and in Intec specifically with the Equipo de Investigación Social (Social Research Team) EQUIS, with the Centro de Estudio del Género (Center for Gender Studies) and the Social Science Area, amongst others. It also has research relations with Florida International University, FIU and the International Hurricane Center, Centro de Estudios de América (Center for American Studies) in Cuba, with Flacso Guatemala, Flacso El Salvador, and with the Women and Development Unit of the University of West Indies and with the Population Centre of Florida State University and with l’université Antilles-Guyane. Also with other regional research groups such as La Red para el Estudio Social en Prevención de Desastres para América Latina, LA RED. Regarding funding organizations the Team has worked with the Ford Foundation, the Center for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, CDMHA and Oxfam, among others. With respect to government institutions, there has been collaboration with the Secretaría de Estado de Medio Ambiente, (Environmental State Secretariat) the Instituto Dominicano de Recursos Hidráulicos INDRHI, (Dominican Institute of Water
Resources) Instituto Interamericano de Ciencias Agrícolas IICA, and the Agricultural Secretariat of Haiti.

Team members have excellent working relations with national and international experts on population, development and environmental policies, demographers and economists inside the Flacso system and in country, which will enable project success.

The possibility to carry out comparative, qualitative research in three main countries of the Caribbean Region in an area which requires urgent research based intervention will definitely develop expertise and analytical and policy making capacities in Team members.
IV - WORK SCHEDULE

♦ Research work carried out before the mid-term evaluation (from June 2003 to February 2004)

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<td>All team members</td>
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<td><strong>Conceptual Framework</strong></td>
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<td>Other Team members will have some responsibility in the case of expert consultation in their respective countries.</td>
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♦ b) Drafting of the mid-term report (for February 2004)
Team Manager, Lourdes Meyreles, with input from other Team members.

♦ c) Research work carried out after the mid-term evaluation (from March 2004 to February 2005)

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d) Drafting of the pre-report (for March 2005)
Lourdes Meyreles with input from Team members
♦ e) Meeting of Centres (March 2005)
♦ f) Final drafting of the provisional report (for April 2005)
Lourdes Meyreles and Hervé Domenach with input from Team Members
♦ g) Revision of the report after evaluation by the scientific Committee (April-May 2005)
Lourdes Meyreles, Victor Ruiz and Hervé Domenach with input from Team Members.