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Ecuador To Receive \$14.5 Million In Loans From IdB For Conservation Project

by John Neagle

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On Feb. 15, the Inter-American Development Bank announced in Washington that it had approved two loans for a total \$14.5 million toward an environmental protection project in Ecuador's Paute River basin. Reforestation and other conservation measures, said the IDB, will prolong the useful life of the Paute hydroelectric plant which accounts for 30% of the country's electricity generation. The project will include the protection of some 119,500 ha. of forest and shrub lands at the headwaters of the Paute River basin toward prevention of rapid erosion, limiting flash flooding, and ensuring a reliable supply of potable water several cities downstream. Also included is a feasibility study for sediment dredging at the Paute River's Amaluza reservoir. (Basic data from Xinhua, 02/15/89)

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