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## **Guatemala: US\$14.4 Million Inter-american Development Bank Loan For Conservation Project**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Dec. 11, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) announced approval of a US\$14.4 million loan for the Guatemalan government. The loan is earmarked for a program in the upper Rio Chixoy basin, comprised of introducing water and soil conservation techniques; development of a forestry management plan; fire prevention efforts; methods to improve agricultural productivity; and, a reforestation program. The program also includes measures to reduce deforestation, erosion and sedimentation affecting the Pueblo Viejo-Chixoy hydroelectric plant. Total project cost is estimated at US\$17.9 million. IDB loan terms are 40 years, a 10-year grace period, a 1% annual interest for the first 10 years and 2% per annum over the remaining 30 years. (Basic data from Spanish news service EFE, Agence France-Presse, 12/11/91)

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