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Guatemala: International Support For Forest Conservation & Development Plan

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Feb. 19, Agriculture Minister Adolfo Boppel said that international environmental organizations had agreed to support the Guatemalan Forestry Action Plan (Plan de Accion Forestal Guatemalteco-PAFG), which includes reforestation, education in agronomy and forestry, management of protected areas, and communal forestry development projects. Boppel said the plan is also supported by the World Bank, the UN World Food Programme, the Organization of American States (OAS), and the governments of Holland, the US, Finland and Spain. In addition, said the minister, the Spanish government will "provide strong support in high school and university- level education and development of a forestry engineering degree program," as well as for agricultural and forestry development projects. The US Agency for International Development (AID) has agreed to fund massive reforestation in the northeastern region, and the Dutch government is to supply technical assistance, and financing for forestry development in the Cuchumantanes mountains in northern Guatemala. (Basic data from Agencia Centroamericana de Noticias-Spanish news service EFE, 02/19/92)

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