



**Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Program
GEF Assembly – Side Event Proposal**

Title of the Event: Mainstreaming ecosystem services in infrastructure: Advances at the Inter-American Development Bank

Over the past two decades, Latin America and the Caribbean have experienced a strong economic growth (over 80% growth in GDP). According to recent estimates, GDP is expected to double by 2030 along with a significant reduction in poverty levels. The current economic growth of the region is largely enabled by investments in infrastructure that actively support economic activity. Until recently, traditional approaches to infrastructure investments at the IDB focused on preventing and mitigating impacts on ecosystems and people. However, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has sought to broaden this approach and acknowledged the need to incorporate the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services in infrastructure investments, since these services underpin not only human wellbeing, but can also increase the use life (and reduce maintenance costs) of infrastructure investments (for example by reducing erosion of roads, or siltation in hydroelectric dams). Innovative efforts are being made in the country dialogue, in feasibility studies for public and private sector investments, in training and south-south cooperation. This panel will address the activities and advances that the IDB has accomplished in the area of mainstreaming ecosystem services in infrastructure.

Panel Agenda:

1. Introduction
2. Setting the stage: first set of questions (30 min)
3. Panel discussion (30 min)
4. Commentary by Mark Zimsky (GEF)
5. Questions and answers (15 min).
6. Closing comments

Panel Speakers:

Moderator:

Pedro Garay Armoa
Economics Specialist
Country Department Southern Cone: Paraguay
Inter-American Development Bank

Transport:

Rafael Acevedo-Daunas
Transport Lead Specialist



INE/TSP

Alfonso Malky Harb
Technical Manager for the Andean-Amazon Region
The Conservation Strategy Fund

Water and Sanitation:

Felipe Vasquez Lavin
Environmental Economist
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics
Universidad del Desarrollo, Concepcion, Chile

Energy:

Patricia Abed
President
Instituto de Derecho y Economia Ambiental (IDEA), Paraguay

Private Sector:

Kelle Bevine
Chief of Strategy
Structured and Corporate Finance, IDB