



Organización de los Estados Americanos
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July 18, 2008

Steven R. Schill
The Nature Conservancy
Costa Rica Field Office
Mesoamerica & Caribbean Region Science Team
San José, Costa Rica

Dear Dr. Schill,

Thank you for your response to the letter sent on June 18th, 2008 in relation to the proposal "*Internet-Based GIS Ecosystem Assessment and Reporting Tool for Conservation Decision-Making*". The Evaluation Committee has reviewed it and we would like to request additional clarification on the following issues:

1. In your proposal you offer an "Internet-based Ecosystem Assessment and Reporting tool" (see proposal pg 1). In the answer submitted to question two of the first clarification letter, you state that users will be able to download the tool for a) installation and use on a local machine use; or b) access the on-line version that queries a remote database of ecosystems and protected areas. Thus, would TNC develop a desktop version as well as an on-line version? If you propose a desktop version, will this version need commercial software to run it such as ESRI, and could you please provide us with more information about the capabilities of this desktop version?
2. IABIN also has Thematic Networks collecting data on Species and Specimens, Invasive Species and Pollinators; would any of these networks or types of data be able to provide additional capabilities/functionality to the tool?
3. Since TNC is co-financing this proposal, who would own the code for this tool? Would it be an Open Source Code?

Thank you again for your proposal, and we eagerly await your response by July 28th, 2008.

Sincerely,

Richard Huber
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cc. Maarten Kappelle, PhD, Regional Science Director for Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, TNC
Gladys Cotter, IABIN Executive Committee Chair
IABIN Value Added Tool Working Group