



MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 27, 2020

TO: USAID/Colombia Mission Director, Lawrence Sacks

FROM: USAID OIG Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional Office, through Global and Strategic Audits Division (GSAD) Assistant Director, Pamela Hamilton /s/

SUBJECT: Financial Audit of Fondo Para la Acción Ambiental y la Niñez's Management of the Connected Landscapes Program in Colombia, Cooperative Agreement AID-530-A-13-00005, January 1 to December 31, 2018 (9-530-20-020-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on the Connected Landscapes Program in Colombia. Fondo Para la Acción Ambiental y la Niñez (Fondo Acción) contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm Ernst & Young Audit S.A.S. to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on Fondo Acción's fund accountability statement; the effectiveness of its internal control; or its compliance with the award, laws, and regulations.¹

The audit objectives were to (1) express an opinion on whether the fund accountability statement for the period audited, was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate Fondo Acción's internal controls; (3) determine whether Fondo Acción complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations; and (4) determine if Fondo Acción has taken adequate corrective action on prior audit recommendations. To answer the audit objectives, the audit firm reported that they assessed and tested the internal controls related to the project; compliance with applicable laws, regulations, the agreement's provisions; and reviewed project expenditures. The audit covered \$1,071,618 of USAID expenditures for the audited period.

¹ We reviewed the audit firm's report for conformity with professional reporting standards. Our desk reviews are typically performed to identify any items needing clarification or issues requiring management attention. Desk reviews are limited to review of the audit report itself and excludes review of the auditor's supporting working papers; they are not designed to enable us to directly evaluate the quality of the audit performed.

The audit firm concluded the fund accountability statement presented fairly, in all material respects, program revenues and costs incurred under the award for the period audited.

The audit firm did not identify any material weaknesses in internal control or instances of material noncompliance with applicable laws, regulations, and agreement terms.

During our desk review, we noted a minor issue which the audit firm should address in future audit reports. We presented the issue in a memo to the controller, dated February 27, 2020.

Based on the results of the desk review, OIG is not making any recommendation to USAID/Colombia.

We appreciate the assistance extended during the engagement.

OIG does not routinely distribute independent public accounting reports beyond the immediate addressees because a high percentage of these reports contain information restricted from release under the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. 1905 and Freedom of Information Act Exemption Four, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) ("commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential").