



commission for environmental impact assessment

Ministerio de Desarrollo Sostenible Bolivia &
Viceministerio de Recursos Naturales y
Medio Ambiente
To: Sr. Viceministro E. Aguilera
To: Sr. Director General Medio Ambiente G.
Mérida
La Paz, Bolivia

your reference

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your letter of

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our reference

058-048 Sh/Mz

subject

Advice on Terms of Reference for SEA
Gran Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia

Utrecht,

24 December 2004

Dear Mr. Aguilera and Mr. Mérida,

By fax, dated 30 June 2004, you requested the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Impact Assessment to advise on Terms of Reference and supervision for an SEA in the area of the Gran Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia.

It is my pleasure to submit herewith the Advice on Terms of Reference prepared by a working group of the Commission. I would like to draw your attention to the following:

Again, as during the first SEA pilot, I would like to express my appreciation for the organisation of the visit and the personal interest demonstrated by the director and staff of the Vice Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Unfortunately, the aim of 'training on the job' this time could not be fully realised, as the Bolivian expert on tourism could not participate as planned.

This SEA is the second pilot in Bolivia, after the first one which started in September 2004. This implies quite an investment of Ministry of Sustainable Development (MDS) in terms of capacity, time, expertise, guidance and supervision. These conditions should be available or put in place in order to increase the chance on successful introduction of SEA. I would also like to stress the importance of immediate distribution of the report, inviting comments, and giving adequate follow-up to keep the momentum built now for SEA. Expectations may have risen amongst various stakeholders and these should be met in order to maintain credibility and enthusiasm.

I would like to repeat once more that the Commission is willing to continue co-operation with the MDS in the next stages of SEA introduction in Bolivia. This co-operation can take place at several levels:

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- Supplementary advice on the final ToR for the SEA for the Polo de Desarrollo (Puerto Busch), as soon as decisions have been taken on the leading planning process and the level of SEA, including set-up and management of the SEA (December-January).
- Coaching during the undertaking of both pilot SEAs and quality review (during 2005).
- Contribution to capacity building in SEA (2005).
- Advice on ToR for other SEA pilots (in 2005 ?)
- Assistance in drafting SEA regulations and institutional embedding.

Preferably these activities should be agreed upon in a Memorandum of Understanding, for which drafts have been interchanged by now.

The Commission would appreciate to be kept informed about the use that is made of this advice.

Yours sincerely,

Klaas Jan Beek



Chairman of the Working Group on SEA Gran Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia

cc. Netherlands Embassy
Mr. C.R. Valenzuela, Mr. H. van den Heuvel