MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

BETWEEN

COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
VIRGINIA TECH
BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA, USA

AND

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA
MANAGUA, NICARAGUA

Virginia Tech, represented by its Coordinator of International Programs and the President of Virginia Tech (hereafter referred to as Virginia Tech), and the University of Central America through its Faculty of Environmental Science and Technology, (hereafter referred to as UCA), represented by its Rector, taking into account:

That the College of Natural Resources, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, is a land-grant institution committed to research, education, and outreach in agriculture, natural resources and other fields on a global scale.

That the University of Central America as an educational institution that wishes to actively participate in facing the great challenges implicit in the economic development of Nicaragua intends, through its Faculty of Environmental Science and Technology, to tackle the environmental problems facing the country, intimately linked as they are to the issues of poverty, growth and sustainability.

Have agreed to the following terms:

1. That this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is intended to facilitate all exchanges and cooperative initiatives between the universities in the areas of instruction, exchange, development, research, and community service.

2. That the parties recognize that implementation of any agreement will depend upon the academic interest and expertise of individual faculty members and upon the availability of financial resources.

3. A variety of cooperative approaches shall be employed, such as:
   - Hosting or conducting student educational tours
   - Exchange of undergraduate and graduate students
   - Exchange of faculty members
   - Exchange of research personnel
   - Technical assistance and/or training
   - Exchange of scholarly and pedagogical materials
• Joint Research
• Other cooperative efforts as set forth in Implementing Agreements. (IA)

4. That the initial focus of this linkage agreement will be based on: Fisheries and Aquaculture, Protected Areas Conservation, and Non-timber Forest Products, Forestry, and other related areas.

5. That financial and/or funding considerations shall become the subject of specific discussion and agreement within the framework of a separate Implementing Agreement negotiated at the College/Departmental level. Opportunities exist to arrange housing once a year for visiting faculty, tuition exchanges for students, and other cost subsidies. However, no financial commitment whatever on the part of either signatory to this general document is intended or implied.

6. That specific projects to which this MOU may lead will be subject to joint and periodic evaluations by appropriate authorities within the respective universities.

7. That this MOU will be in effect for a period of five years and is subject to revision or modification by mutual agreement. It is also understood that either institution may terminate the agreement upon one year’s notice. It is assumed that such action would be taken only after mutual consultation in order to minimize potential inconvenience to the other party to the agreement.

8. That such Memoranda of Understanding are not intended to be legally binding documents. Rather, they are meant to describe the nature and cooperative intentions of those institutions involved, and to suggest guidelines for cooperation. Nothing, therefore, shall diminish the full autonomy of either institution, nor may any constraints be imposed by either upon the other.

For Virginia Tech

A.L. Hammett, Coordinator of International Programs

College of Natural Resources

Date June 30, 2000

President

Date July 15, 2000

For University of Central America

Roberto Zarurk

Academic Vice-Rector


Date

Eduardo Valdes Barria, S.J.

Rector


Date