

Joint Communiqué of the Meetings of the Peru - United States Sub-Committee on Forest Sector Governance and Environmental Cooperation Commission

Lima, Peru - The Governments of Peru and the United States convened the sixth meeting of the Sub-Committee on Forest Sector Governance (Sub-Committee) and the third meeting of the Environmental Cooperation Commission (ECC) from April 03-04 in Lima. The meetings focused on progress made in implementing the Annex on Forest Sector Governance (Annex) of the Trade Promotion Agreement between Peru and the United States (TPA), and the United States-Peru Environmental Cooperation Agreement (ECA) (specifically cooperation activities related to forest matters).

The meetings were chaired by Director for North America and Europe Diego Urbina from Peru's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism (MINCETUR); Director of Cooperation and International Negotiations Antonio González from Peru's Ministry of Environment; Director for Environment and Natural Resources Sarah Stewart from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative; and Chief for Environment and Trade Rob Wing from the Office of Environmental Quality and Transboundary Issues, U.S. Department of State.

Peru's Government participants in the meeting included officials from the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism (MINCETUR), the Ministry of Environment (MINAM), the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG), the Supervision Agency for Forest and Fauna Wildlife Resources (OSINFOR), the Ministry of Culture (MINCU), the Public Ministry, and the Amazon Inter-Regional Council (CIAM). U.S. Government participants included officials from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the U.S. Embassy in Lima.

The Sub-Committee reviewed progress on implementing the TPA Annex on Forest Sector Governance. The Government of the United States recognized the significant progress that Peru has made to implement the actions established in the TPA Annex on Forest Sector Governance, such as: developing a prototype for an information system that will track and verify the chain of custody for wood harvested in Peru's forest in accordance with the Annex (3.h.ii), the actions being carried out by the independent forestry oversight body (OSINFOR); the adoption of laws and administrative procedures for management, supervision and issuance of permits for the exports of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) timber species, Peru's efforts to develop the regulation for implementing its new Forestry and Wildlife Law (related with the actions established in the Annex), and the anti-corruption plan on forest sector approved in 2011, among others.

The ECC focused its review of the implementation of the Environmental Cooperation Agreement (ECA) on those cooperation activities that support the Annex implementation and the activities indicated in the January 2013 Joint Communiqué for both Governments regarding forest sector governance.

The Parties also discussed priority activities, including cooperation activities, for ongoing and future work related to implementation of the Annex.

Both Governments also held a public session for various stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, private sector representatives, and other interested persons. Diego Urbina, Director for North America and Europe, from Peru's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism (MINCETUR), Antonio González, Director of Cooperation and International Negotiations, from Peru's Ministry of Environment; Sarah Stewart, Director for Environment and Natural Resources, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative; and Rob Wing, Chief for Environment and Trade, Office of Environmental Quality and Transboundary Issues, U.S. Department of State, co-chaired the session, which provided an opportunity for the public to participate in a discussion with government officials about implementation of the TPA Annex on Forest Sector Governance and the Environmental Cooperation Agreement (activities related to support the Annex on Forest Sector implementation).