

United States-Peru Environmental Cooperation Work Program (2015-2018)

The Environmental Cooperation Commission (ECC), established pursuant to Article III of the Environmental Cooperation Agreement (ECA) between the Governments of the United States and Peru (the Governments), hereby defines a Work Program for the period 2015 through 2018 that establishes goals, objectives, and action areas that reflect national priorities for each Government.

Background

On July 24, 2006, the Governments of the United States and Peru signed an ECA, which entered into force August 23, 2009. In so doing, the Governments recognized that cooperation is the principal means for ensuring that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive and promote the optimal use of resources in accordance with the objective of sustainable development. The objective of the ECA is to establish a framework for enhancing bilateral and/or regional environmental cooperation between the Parties. The ECA establishes an ECC and obligates the ECC to define a Work Program.

The Annex on Forest Sector Governance (the Annex) to the Environment Chapter of the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (TPA), recognizes that the Governments are committed to work cooperatively, in accordance with the ECA, to promote the sustainable management of Peru's forest resources. Since 2009, the Governments have deepened cooperation in the following areas: (a) strengthening the legal, policy, and institutional framework governing the forest estate and the international trade in forest products; (b) building institutional capacity for forest law enforcement and the international trade in forest products; (c) improving the performance of the forest concession system in meeting economic, social, and ecological objectives; and (d) increasing public participation and improving transparency in forest resource planning and management decision-making.

Work Program Goals

Through implementation of this Work Program, the ECC is striving to achieve the following long-term goals:

- A. Effective implementation of the TPA Environment Chapter, including the Annex.
- B. Improved protection, conservation and sustainable management of natural resources and the environment, including biodiversity and other ecosystem services, protected areas, forests, marine and coastal ecosystems and other ecologically important areas;
- C. Increased transparency and public participation in environmental decision-making;
- D. Climate change adaptation and mitigation, particularly related to addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation;
- E. Improved environmental performance in the productive sector.

Priority Areas for Cooperation

A. Institutional and Policy Strengthening for Effective Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Laws, including Biodiversity Conservation and Other Natural Resource-Related Laws

Objectives: To work with national, regional, and local governments in Peru to: (1) strengthen their ability to effectively enforce their environmental laws; (2) support the adoption and implementation of environmental laws, decrees, regulations and other measures, including commitments in multilateral environmental agreements (e.g., Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)); (3) exchange information and experiences on legal, policy, regulatory, enforcement and compliance regimes for, and approaches to, environmental protection and natural resource management, and (4) ensure that judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative proceedings are available to sanction or remedy violations of environmental laws.

Action Areas

- Support regulatory entities, law enforcement personnel, and prosecutors in the development and enforcement of environmental laws (environmental impact assessment, environmental permitting and inspection, investigations, compliance agreements, prosecutions, adjudication of environmental disputes and sanctions).
- Implementation of CITES and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements.
- Conservation of living marine resources, including addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- Development and implementation of a national action plan to reduce mercury pollution from artisanal and small-scale gold mining as required by the Minamata Convention.

B. Improved protection, conservation and sustainable management of natural resources and the environment, including biodiversity and other ecosystem services, protected areas, forests and other ecologically important areas.

Objectives: To work with public and private entities, community and indigenous groups to (1) promote and encourage the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and all of its components, including wildlife and timber species; (2) promote the management and sustainable use of natural resources, (3) promote effective management of protected areas and other ecologically important ecosystems, (4) enhance forest sector governance and promote legal trade in timber products; and (5) combat trade associated with illegal logging and illegal trade in wildlife; and (6) advance climate change mitigation in forest areas.

Action Areas

- Work with indigenous and local communities to improve forest and protected area management and biodiversity and habitat conservation, incorporating gender and traditional knowledge considerations.

- Forest conservation to reduce emissions from degradation and deforestation, protect migratory bird and wildlife habitat, and deter illegal logging.
- Forest sector governance, including by supporting efforts to implement the National Anti-Corruption Plan on Forest and Wildlife sector, strengthening chain of custody for exportation of timber products, and inventory management, and activities related to January 2013 Joint Communique Regarding Forest Sector Governance, as well.
- Prevent and combat wildlife trafficking.
- Sustainable management of cross-boundary lakes and rivers, including through enhanced wastewater treatment.

C. Transparency and Public Participation in Environmental Decision-Making and Enforcement

Objectives: To (1) share experiences on involving the public in decision-making on environment and trade matters; (2) enhance transparency in regulatory and program implementation; and (3) exchange knowledge and experiences on public outreach and environmental education strategies and programs, including on how to make them more inclusive of indigenous and gender representation.

Action Areas

- Inclusive public participation in environmental decision-making and enforcement, including with vulnerable populations.
- Access to information and transparency in regulation and program implementation.
- Public outreach and environmental education activities to promote community involvement in environmental services and biodiversity conservation.

D. Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Objectives: Provide support to the implementation of the Peruvian Climate Change National Strategy through measures including: (1) promoting a comprehensive low emission development approach at national and local levels; (2) strengthening climate change adaptive capacity within governments and local communities; (3) improving basic, long-term environmental data, particularly on climate; (4) enhancing the coordination between GOP agencies and developing a consistent system for planning towards effective climate change responses to achieve low emission, climate resilient development; and (5) strengthening the capacity of national and subnational governments to plan and implement activities for climate mitigation and adaptation.

Action Areas

- National and sectoral inventories of GHG emissions and MRV systems in several sectors.
- Low emission development activities at national, regional, and municipal levels.

- Mitigation of short-lived climate pollutants, including black carbon and methane from agriculture, landfills and wastewater treatment.
- Conservation in the glacier highlands, including the paramo and puna ecosystems, to maintain their water regulating functions and other services they provide in the face of climate change.
- Public and private investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

E. Improved Environmental Performance in the Productive Sector

Objectives: To encourage private enterprises in the productive sector in Peru (including operators of forest concessions) to develop and adopt sound environmental and natural resource management practices and technologies.

Action Areas

- Development and adoption by industry of environmentally-friendly and economically efficient practices.
- Reduce deforestation, environmental degradation and chemical contamination including mercury pollution from artisanal small scale mining activities.
- Promotion of economic and financial initiatives, forest investment, value added forest products and access to financial services.

Activities

The Governments anticipate building on the activities in the 2011-2014 Work Program, continuing to implement the Annex, while addressing additional priorities.

The implementation of activities in the separated but related “Matrix of Ongoing U.S.-Peru Environmental Cooperation Activities” is contingent upon the availability of funding and other resources from the Parties and other sources. The Governments will endeavor to conduct low or no cost information exchanges or digital video conferences between technical agencies to efficiently advance cooperative efforts.

Should additional resources become available, the Governments may undertake other activities, such as improving: technical capacity and market access for sustainable agricultural products and other non-forest-related natural-resource-based products; fisheries management; the regulation and environmental impacts of large-scale cyanide gold mines; air and water quality; solid waste disposal practices; and compliance and overall environmental performance through environmental management systems and environmental audits.

The Governments intend to explore the development of partnerships with private sector and civil society organizations in carrying out their work. The Governments also note ongoing bilateral cooperative work in other fora, and intend to complement and build upon this work. Furthermore, the Governments intend to explore opportunities for collaboration in priority areas with other countries in the Western Hemisphere.

Benchmarks, Monitoring and Evaluation

As the Governments implement the activities under the Work Program, they intend to encourage implementing partners to identify performance indicators and benchmarks to measure progress in furthering the goals and objectives of these activities and to facilitate public reporting of that progress. The Governments recognize that a variety of agencies and civil society groups will be involved in implementing the activities under this Work Program, and that the agency or group that leads implementation for a particular activity should be responsible for public participation, information disclosure, and performance tracking related to that activity.