

**Joint Statement of the Meetings of
Peru - United States Environmental Affairs Council,
Environmental Cooperation Commission and Sub-Committee
on Forest Sector Governance**

*June 9, 2015
Lima, Peru*

Lima-On June 8-9, 2015, the Governments of Peru and the United States convened the fifth meetings of the Environmental Affairs Council (EAC) and the Environmental Cooperation Commission (ECC), and the seventh meeting of the Sub-Committee on Forest Sector Governance in Lima. The meetings focused on progress to implement the environmental provisions of the Peru-United States Trade Promotion Agreement (TPA), including the Annex on Forest Sector Governance (Annex) of the TPA, and environmental cooperation matters under the United States-Peru Environmental Cooperation Agreement (ECA).

On June 9, 2015, the Governments of the United States and Peru signed a bilateral understanding establishing an independent Secretariat for Submissions on Environmental Enforcement Matters under the framework of the TPA (“the Secretariat”) pursuant to article 18.8 of the TPA. The United States and Peru also signed a trilateral Memorandum of Understanding with the Organization of American States designating it as the entity that will house the Secretariat.

The EAC reviewed the progress Peru and the United States have made to ensure effective implementation of, and compliance with, the obligations under the Environment Chapter of the TPA. Peru and the United States highlighted key steps each country has undertaken in the past year to improve their respective levels of environmental protection, consistent with the Environment Chapter objectives.

Following the session of the EAC, the ECC convened and reviewed implementation of the ECA and approved a new United States-Peru Environmental Cooperation Work Program for 2015-2018. The work program provides a broad framework for robust environmental cooperation, including continued support for Peru’s efforts to implement the Environment Chapter of the TPA and related cooperation activities under the ECA.

The Sub-Committee on Forest Sector Governance (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 Governance¹, such as: strengthening forest sector governance, the adoption of laws and administrative procedures for management, supervision and issuance of permits for the exports of CITES, implementation of an enhanced information system that will track and verify the chain of custody for wood harvest implementation progress on inventories of mahogany and cedar under the framework of National Forest Inventory and Wildlife (INFFS), among others.

The EAC, ECC and the Sub-Committee also held a public session with the participation of stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, private sector representatives, and other interested persons, which provided an opportunity for the public to participate in a discussion with government officials about implementation of the Environment Chapter (including the Annex on Forest Sector Governance) of the TPA.

The Members of the EAC and the ECC will continue to work together to further enhance the mutual supportiveness of trade and environmental protection through continued implementation of the TPA Environment Chapter and the U.S. – Peru ECA.

The meetings were chaired by Teresa Mera, Officer in charge of Bilateral Affairs for North America and Europe from Peru's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism; and Antonio González, Managing Director of Cooperation and International Negotiations from Peru's Ministry of Environment; Jennifer Prescott, Assistant United States Trade Representative; and Judy Garber, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

Additional Peruvian Government participants in the meeting included officials from MINCETUR, MINAM, SERFOR, OSINFOR, and Public Prosecutor's Office (FEMA). U.S. Government participants in the meeting included officials from the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Department of Justice.

¹ Including actions referred to in the January 2013 Joint Communique Regarding Forest Sector Governance.