



Organización de los Estados Americanos
Organização dos Estados Americanos
Organization des États Américains
Organization of American States

17th and Constitution Ave., N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006

Trends in the Implementation of Payments for Environmental Services in the Americas

12th International Congress on Environmental Law
Sao Paulo, Brazil
4th of June 2008

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Background and Objectives: As member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) search for environmental management solutions and explore innovative market based mechanisms for conservation, more than 400 projects and Payments for Environmental Services (PES) transactions have been implemented in the hemisphere. Approximately US\$ 120 million have been exchanged as a result of 83 of these transactions. PES transactions cover four main services recognized by consensus, including protection of watersheds, conservation of biodiversity, scenic beauty, and carbon sequestration. To carry out the implementation of PES schemes, governments of countries in the Americas need to attract new stakeholders, particularly from within the private sector. This remains a challenge as well as the need for countries to adapt their legal and institutional frameworks to support this mechanism, as it potentially promises a new social, economic and environmental reality.

Following the compromise of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development of the Americas in 2006, the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) of the OAS has been working to strengthen efforts at the national level to protect ecosystems and the services they provide. The DSD also facilitates access to PES through the exchange of experiences, best practices, and information at the regional level.

Through the use of a database, the DSD has been analyzing trends in transactions that have occurred in the region. Additionally, the DSD has been analyzing the challenges and contributions of legal and institutional frameworks to the implementation of PES schemes.

The 12th International Congress on Environmental Law presents an opportunity for dialogue among key stakeholders about best practices in the implementation of PES and the contribution that legal and institutional frameworks may provide to strengthen this mechanism's effectiveness in areas such as land property, forests, biodiversity, water and fiscal law, among others. The findings from this dialogue will help the DSD validate its analytical work which will be of importance to the member states as they develop their PES national policies.

9:00 Opening Remarks and Introduction

Sheila Abed, *President, IUCN Environmental Law Commission*

Richard Huber, *Chief Biodiversity and Land Management, OAS Department of Sustainable Development (OAS-DSD)*

9:20-10:30 Session I: Trends and Cases in the Americas

Chair: Juan Pablo Cinto – *Executive Director, Instituto de Derecho y Economía Ambiental, Paraguay*

- **PES in the Americas**
Richard Huber, OAS-DSD
- **The Brazilian Experience**
Ligia Pereira, CIFOR - Brazil
- **The Costa Rican Experience**
Ricardo Ulate, Peace with Nature Plan of Action, Costa Rican Presidential Initiative
- **The Mexican Experience**
Carlos Muñoz, Director General, Environmental, Economics and Policy Research Unit, Instituto Nacional de Ecología - México

Comments and Discussions

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45 -12:45 Session II: Best Practices and Lessons

Chair: Rodrigo Martínez, *(OAS-DSD)*

- **Role of PES in Conservation and Poverty Reduction**
Fernando Veiga – TNC Brazil
- **PES Supply and Demand: Key Stakeholders and Their Roles. Examples of negotiations and agreements**
Luis Fernando Macías – Director, Colombian Institute of Environmental Law
- **Role of the Private Sector: How and Why Their Participation should be increased?**
Juan Carlos Espinosa, Sector Policy Officer, WWF Colombia
- **International PES : Beyond Carbon Markets**
Professor Randall A. Kramer, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University
- **Environmental Services Valuation and Innovative Schemes**
Juan Pablo Alvez, Gund Institute, The University of Vermont

Comments and Discussions

1:00 Lunch

2:30-5:00 Session III: Legal and Institutional Aspects

Chair: Antonio H. Benjamín, Justice, High Court of Brazil

- **Role of Institutions and Law**
Diego Gutiérrez Gronemann. Project Director, Bolivian Society of Environmental Law
- **Legal Approaches in Support of PES in the Americas**
Adriana Casas, OAS-DSD
- **Challenges and Emerging Opportunities Related to Regulatory Aspects**
Milagros Sandoval, Policy and Environmental Management Program, Peruvian Society of Environmental Law (SPDA)
- **Land Tenure and Property Rights. How to Address the Challenges Imposed to PES**
Antonio Andaluz, Legal Advisor -Fundación Natura Bolivia
- **Considerations for PES National Policies**
Luiz de Moura. Plant - Tropical America Katoomba Group

Comments and Discussions

Closure