

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT
AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION
IN OAS ACTIVITIES

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APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 6 OF THE
GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
IN OAS ACTIVITIES [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

[Fundación Ambio]

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS RELATING TO THE APPLICATION BY *FUNDACIÓN AMBIO* TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Department of International Affairs/Secretariat for External Relations to provide information to the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the civil society organization *Fundación Ambio*.

The information contained herein is in response to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities,” and includes a summary and a list of data and documentation presented by *Fundación Ambio* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

Fundación Ambio is a nonprofit organization established on September 22, 1989, in San José, Costa Rica, to foster sustainable development and promote citizen participation in government policy through training in, influencing, and researching environmental law. *Fundación Ambio* works in three main areas: (1) governance and citizenship; (2) sustainable development and environmental management; and (3) consumer protection.

In the area of governance and citizenship, *Fundación Ambio* implemented the Citizen Comptrollers Project to promote better access to information and accountability on the part of local governments in applying environmental law. Under that project, it has developed a Guide to Environmental Rights, a Citizen Participation Manual, and a Guide to Queries, Claims, and Complaints to raise awareness of existing mechanisms in Costa Rica for the protection of fundamental rights and to strengthen citizens’ capacity to participate in monitoring and oversight of public administration.

As for sustainable development and environmental management, *Fundación Ambio* trains communities and public servants to promote environmental law, and conducts research and issues publications on law and environmental responsibility, waste management, and endangered species protection. *Fundación Ambio* implemented the Global Environmental Citizenship Project (PCAG) to raise awareness of global environmental issues such as biodiversity, climate change, international waters, and ozone depletion. The South-South Cooperation Program between Costa Rica and Benin was held for the two countries to discuss experiences and promote sustainable natural resource management, diversification of ecotourism activities, and income generation for indigenous peoples.

Fundación Ambio also disseminates information and articles on its website on consumer rights law, including changes to rules governing credit and debit cards, consumer protection legislation, and reports on international and national rules governing quality and incomplete or incorrect information on product labels.

Fundación Ambio has financed its activities through contributions from the *Fundecooperación* program, financed by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Embassy of Canada in Costa Rica, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation (HIVOS), the National Board of Global

Environmental Citizenship, the Confederation of Consumers and Users of Castilla-La Mancha (CECU-CLM), *Fundación Avina*, and FACUA Spain.

Fundación Ambio submitted its application to the OAS on November 7, 2010.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name of organization:	<i>Fundación Ambio</i>
Address:	Paseo de los Estudiantes, Calles 7 y 9, Avenida 16 San José, Costa Rica
Telephone:	(506) 2221 6148
Fax:	(506) 2221 1721
E-mail:	fundacionambio@gmail.com
Website:	www.fundacionambio.org
President:	Roxana Sánchez
Date of establishment:	September 22, 1989

3. Primary areas of activities and contributions that could be of interest to the OAS

Fundación Ambio promotes sustainable development with citizen participation in the design and monitoring of government policies relating to appropriate environmental management. The primary areas of its work that could be of interest to the OAS include:

- Contributing to the design of government policies that promote sustainable development and the protection of biodiversity through awareness campaigns, training, and consultancy services to judges, inspectors, and communities on environmental law and social and environmental legislation;
- Promoting access to information and transparency in public administration through programs intended to strengthen citizen participation in devising, implementing, and following up on environmental laws, and providing public information on fundamental rights and means of participation in governmental bodies; and
- Strengthening consumer protection through electronic posting of information on national and international law and trends in this area.

4. Identification of potential areas of collaboration with the OAS

Fundación Ambio proposes to work with the OAS in the following areas:

- Disseminating the principles of the OAS Charter and the Inter-American Democratic Charter;
- Submitting recommendations to the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) on the implementation of sustainable environmental policies and environmental conservation;
- Participating in OAS meetings relating to sustainable development, especially the Meetings of Ministers and High Authorities of Sustainable Development, in keeping with the Inter-American Strategy for the Promotion of Public Participation in Decision-Making for Sustainable Development (ISP);
- Supporting the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), facilitating information exchange and discussion on environmental policy, water resource management, and sustainable development;
- Providing technical advisory services to the Department of Social Development and Environment of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) in its consumer protection program, especially in implementing the Network for Consumer Safety and Health in the Americas, in keeping with resolution AG/RES. 2549 (XL-O/10), "Consumer Protection: Network for Consumer Safety and Health in the Americas";
- Submitting recommendations to the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) of the Permanent Council and working with the Department of International Affairs (DIA) of the Secretariat for External Relations (SER) in promoting civil society participation in OAS activities; and
- Working with the Department for Effective Public Management of the Secretariat for Political Affairs (SPA), specifically with its transparency and governance programs, to promote greater transparency and integrity in public administrations in the various countries.

5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General, November 7, 2010
- Articles of constitution
- Statutes
- Institutional mission statement
- Activity report, 2008-2009 and 2009-2010
- Financial statements for 2010 (sworn income tax statement, 2010)
- Citizen Participation Manual
- Guide to Fundamental Rights
- Guide to Queries, Claims, and Complaints