

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

OEA/Ser.G  
CP/CISC-125/04  
13 September 2004  
Original: Spanish

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

(Ecuadorian Environmental Law Center)

## SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ECUADORIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER (CEDA)

This document was prepared by the Office for the Summit Process to provide information on the Ecuadorian Environmental Law Center (CEDA). It contains the basic data and a list of supporting documentation submitted by this civil society organization (CSO) pursuant to the Guidelines for Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities.

### **1. Background**

The Ecuadorian Environmental Law Center (CEDA) was established on July 4, 1996, in Quito, Ecuador, by a group of Ecuadorian attorneys specializing in environmental law, to promote and publicize environmental law at the national and international levels as an effective means of environmental protection. CEDA is an independent, nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that assists in the design of environmental protection policy and law.

CEDA works under four special programs: (a) academic; (b) international trade and environment; (c) law and policy; (d) conflict management. The aim of these programs is to promote and disseminate the principles of environmental law, develop research methods, and create new legal instruments for environmental protection.

CEDA works with, and provides advisory services to, various environmental organizations in the Americas. It is an active member of the Legal Committee of the Ecuadorian Committee for the Defense of Nature (CEDENMA), a group of over 75 nongovernmental organizations in Ecuador. In addition, many members of CEDA belong to the Commission on Environmental Law of the World Conservation Union (IUCN). CEDA has received support from the Argentine Natural Resource Foundation (FARN) since 1996.

In 1998, in Ecuador, CEDA conducted the inventory of laws on public participation in decision-making for sustainable development in the Americas, in the case of Ecuador. This was part of a project by the North South Center/Environmental Law for the Unit for Social Development and Education (UDSE) of the OAS General Secretariat. In October 2002, on the occasion of the FTAA Ministerial Meeting in Quito, CEDA organized a forum entitled "Toward Civil Society Participation in the Americas." This was an opportunity for different sectors of civil society to interact directly with the governments of participating states.

CEDA conducts part of its activities with contributions from various organizations, such as the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the World Wildlife Fund, *Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano*, *Fundación Esquel*, the Ecuadorian Women's Protection and Action Center, and the *Fundación María Amparo Albán*.

CEDA submitted its application to the OAS on March 8, 2004.

**2. Name, address, and date of establishment**

Name: Ecuadorian Environmental Law Center (CEDA)  
Address: Eloy Alfaro 1770 y Rusia, 3er piso. Quito, Ecuador  
Telephone: (593-2) 2238-609  
Fax: (593-2) 2231-410  
Internet site: [www.ceda.org.ec](http://www.ceda.org.ec)  
E-mail address: [info@ceda.org.ec](mailto:info@ceda.org.ec)  
Managing director: Daniel Barragán  
Date established: July 4, 1996

**3. Primary areas of activity of the CSO and their relationship to OAS activities**

CEDA's aim is to design environmental policies and tools. Its work focuses on:

- Executing training and information projects in the public and private sectors on "trade and environment" to promote competitiveness in production and trade within environmental parameters.
- Conducting studies on the impact of commercial activities and policies on the sustainable development of Ecuador.
- Helping to develop juridical instruments, at both national and international levels, with which to regulate production activities and promote environmental conservation and sustainable development.
- Promoting alternative solutions to socio-environmental conflicts by seeking ways to actively integrate the different sectors of society.
- Training the public and private sectors in socio-environmental conflict management.
- Creating an environmental law research and information center by developing a research method and defining the individual skills of the different sectors of society involved, in terms of environmental law.

**4. CSO contributions that could be of interest to the OAS:**

CEDA can contribute to the OAS in several of its areas of endeavor by participating in its activities in the field of sustainable development and environmental protection. Therefore, it could contribute to the following activities:

- Developing academic programs to publicize and promote environmental law through research and education approaches that will enhance the public's knowledge of environmental law.

- Implementing the international trade and environment program to establish ties of cooperation among nongovernmental organizations, international organizations, and the government sector and promote awareness of the relationship between trade, the environment, and economic growth.
- Conducting the environmental legislation and policy program, so as to promote reform of the environmental law system in Latin America.
- Promoting the program to prevent and resolve socio-environmental conflicts.
- Issuing recommendations on matters of sustainable development and environmental law, whether at the initiative of CEDA or at the recommendation of the OAS.

**5. OAS work areas to which the CSO can provide support**

CEDA believes it could contribute to OAS activities through programs and events related to sustainable development, the environment, and environmental law. CEDA offers its cooperation to the following ends:

- Working with the USDE on matters of sustainable development and the environment, through studies and information on water resources and trade liberalization, formulation and execution of technical cooperation projects, advisory services and information to the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN), and establishment of regulations, policies, and cooperative alliances.
- Supporting the work of the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI).
- Collaborating with the Task Force established at the first meeting of the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas in helping OAS member countries to submit the necessary proposals for preventing and mitigating environmental threats in the region.

**6. Documents submitted by the CSO**

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General of the OAS, March 8, 2004
- Incorporation papers of CEDA
- Annual report, January to December 2003
- By-laws
- Financial statement (balance sheet as of December 31, 2003)
- Institutional mission statement of CEDA