

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)]

(Environmental Law and Economics Institute)

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND ECONOMICS INSTITUTE

This document was prepared by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat to provide information on the *Environmental Law and Economics Institute (IDEA)*. 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 *Environmental Law and Economics Institute (IDEA)* is a nonprofit organization established in 1996, in Paraguay, which promotes the incorporation of law and economics into sustainable development programs. Accordingly, it carries out research programs and educational projects, holds seminars, and puts forward public policy and legislation.

IDEA conducts joint activities with the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Regional Alliance for Conservation Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCA), The Nature Conservancy, the Alliance for Sustainable Development (ALIDES), the “Zapallar” Group, the National Wetlands Committee of Paraguay, and the Inter-American Democracy Network.

It has executed projects with the AVINA Foundation, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID, Paraguay Office), the Center for Development Information and Resources (CIRD), the University of Miami (Florida, USA), the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Canadian Embassy’s Canada/Quebec Fund, the Latin American Future Foundation (FFLA), the World Conservation Union, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Moises Bertoni Foundation, the Sustainable Development Foundation of the South American Chaco, the Paraguayan Police Academy, TBN Consultants, the ProCordillera Organization of San Rafael (PROCOSARA), the *Forestal Yguazú* company, the South American Gran Chaco Organization, the Secretariat of the Environment of Paraguay (SEAM), the Sumando Organization, the Center for Strategic Leadership (CSL), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), and the World Bank.

IDEA submitted its application on November 10, 2004.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name: Environmental Law and Economics Institute (IDEA)

Address: Nicanor Torales 150
Asunción, Paraguay

Telephone: (595-21) 662 543 // 614 620

Fax: (595-20) 614-619

E-mail address: idea@idea.org.py

Web page: <http://www.idea.org.py>

Executive Director: Sheila Abed de Zavala

Date established: 1996

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

IDEA works to promote the incorporation of environmental law into economic and environmental policy in order to help implement the sustainable development model. It can support the OAS by:

- Disseminating information on environmental protection and the promotion of economic models conducive to sustainable development and natural resource conservation;
- Offering educational programs that help provide refresher training to judges and prosecutors in the enforcement of environmental law so as to foster an interest in this area on the part of the Judiciary and public prosecutors;
- Holding courses, workshops, and seminars for judges and prosecutors on environmental legislation in the countries of the Hemisphere;
- Presenting reports on the use of natural resources in the Americas and the relationship between land ownership and sustainable development; and
- Conducting research to serve as a basis for drafting legislation and developing public policy on the environment and sustainable development.

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

IDEA promotes policymaking on sustainable development and has a program on the promotion of democracy in the area of citizen participation. In this regard, it can contribute to the OAS through the following activities:

- Design of educational campaigns and programs to develop an awareness of the benefits of the sustainable use of natural resources and environmental conservation;
- Promotion of eco-tourism policies that can further the use of clean energies and technologies, prevent pollution and the deterioration of natural resources, and remedy their dire effects when necessary;
- Provision of technical advice to the Inter-American Forum on Environmental Law (FIDA) to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences on environmental law, in keeping with the Plan of Action of the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia;
- Promotion of discussions on the ethics of sustainable development from the viewpoint of health and the environment; and
- Promotion of laws on agrarian reform, rural development, and citizen participation in reforming the administration of justice.

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

Through its activities, *IDEA* pledges to promote sustainable development by incorporating environmental law into public policy. It has identified the following areas in which it can cooperate with the OAS:

- Participation through the virtual forum established by the Office of Sustainable Development and Environment (OSDE) of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development in the initiatives of the Ministries of Health and Environment of the Americas (MiSAmA) to foster the implementation of environmental and health protection measures with regard to integrated health and environmental assessments, appropriate water resource management, and the treatment of toxic wastes;
- Collaboration with the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) in the development of activities under the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2002-2005 regarding sustainable tourism development and the environment, as well as activities under the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development;
- Support for initiatives to foster private sector participation in the environmental protection of border areas and for other economic environmental protection initiatives;

- Cooperation in following up on the mandates of the Summits of the Americas concerning the environment and sustainable development and on the agreements on climate change, biodiversity, and biotrade; and
- Support for the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in the development of research on health and the environment, including children's health and environmental indicators.

6. Documents submitted by the CSO

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General dated October 28, 2004
- Constitution
- Bylaws
- Financial statements for 2003 (audited by Ernst & Young)
- Annual report for 2003
- List of sources of funding