

MEMORANDUM OF COLLABORATION (MoC) BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (CCAD) AND THE INTER-AMERICAN BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION NETWORK (IABIN)

This Memorandum of Collaboration (hereinafter **MoC**) is entered into by and between the **Central American Commission on Environment and Development** (hereinafter **CCAD**), represented by **Ing. Arturo Harding** in his role as Pro Tempore President of the **CCAD**, and the **Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network** (hereinafter **IABIN**), represented by **Mrs. Gladys Cotter** in her role as Chair of the **IABIN Council** and **IABIN Executive Committee** (hereinafter **IEC**),

CONSIDERING

FIRST: That the **CCAD** has as its mission the development of the regional framework for environmental Collaboration and integration that will contribute to improving the quality of life of the Meso-American population.

SECOND: That the **CCAD** promotes the inclusion of environmental issues in the regional decisions making process and effectiveness in the harmonization and coordination of environmental management.

THIRD: That the following are among the objectives of the **CCAD**: to promote a coordinated action of government, non-government and international organizations for an optimal and rational use of the natural resources of Central America, to control pollution and achieve ecological balance; to strengthen the national institutions responsible for the management of natural resources and the environment; and to foster compatibility between the major national policy guidelines and legislation with regional strategies for sustainable development, incorporating in particular the environmental considerations and parameters in the national development planning processes.

FOURTH: That Article 9 of the **CCAD** Constitution Agreement of 1989 established the Technical Commissions, constituted by Technical Committees with the task to provide advice to the **CCAD** and carry out specific tasks assigned by the Commission.

FIFTH: That the **CCAD** has established the Meso-American Environmental Information System (SIAM) as an instrument for regional integration, constituted by a dynamic and regulated set of interactions between producers and users of environmental information in the Meso-American region and which organizes, harmonizes, adds and disseminates Meso-American environmental data and information for decision-making.

SIXTH: That the SIAM has the objective of establishing harmonized and standardized procedures for the management and dissemination of qualified information, as an instrument to support the management of the environment and sustainable development in the Region.

SEVENTH: That the updated version of the Environmental Plan for the Central American Region (PARCA, 2005) for the 2005-2010 period establishes as a Thematic Area and Strategic Objective “the Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Natural Heritage” and establishes as an expected outcome for 2010 that “the status of the most important species is being monitored and their information is available in SIAM’s portal.”

EIGHTH: That the Technical Committee of the Meso-American Environmental Information System (CT-SIAM) was created at the 36th Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the **CCAD** (10-July-2003).

NINTH: That the Conclusions and Recommendations of the meeting of the CT-SIAM held on 20-21 January 2005 in Honduras proposed to ensure the development of an agreement or letter of collaboration between **IABIN** and the **CCAD** to ensure the participation in the former of the Meso-American countries as a region.

TENTH: That **IABIN** was formally created, through initiative 31st of the Plan of Action of the Summit on Sustainable Development in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in December 1996, as an internet-based forum to promote scientific and technical collaboration for the collection, exchange and use of biodiversity information for decision-making and in the process of education on biodiversity conservation.

ELEVENTH: That decisions No. 5 and 6 of the Second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS) of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) held in Washington in October 1999 (CIDI/CIDS/doc.9/99) encouraged **IABIN** to: i) develop a long-term program reflecting the national, regional, and sub-regional priorities of the participants, complementing and consistent with other on-going initiatives, and ii) give priority to the development of the technological tools necessary to facilitate information exchange among the participants, respectively.

TWELFTH: That Article 1, Paragraph 4 of the Rules of Procedures of **IABIN** mandate it to participate in developing strategies for biodiversity information management in collaboration with other global and regional initiatives to fulfill its mandate to protect, enhance, and utilize biodiversity information most effectively.

THIRTEENTH: That both initiatives complement each other and that the parties understand that the **CCAD** has a scope of action on the management and conservation of biodiversity that encompasses the Meso-American Region and that that of **IABIN** is of an hemispheric character.

AGREE TO

FIRST: Establish this MoC between the **CCAD** and **IABIN** to collaborate in the efforts to promote the generation, exchange and management of biodiversity information, in such a way that it will be used in the environmental policy decision-making process.

SECOND: Promote the collaboration between both initiatives in the planning and implementation of their respective mandates, programs and projects, taking into consideration the need to coordinate efforts, in such a way that these complement each other and result in a greater, more efficient and effective impact.

THIRD: Promote interoperability, connectivity and access to biodiversity data generated in the Meso-American region and inter-connect it with other data generated in the different sub-regions of the American Continent.

FOURTH: Collaborate in the efforts to promote the use of standards and protocols for the organization, digitization and availability of biodiversity information, in such a way that accessibility, usefulness and value of these data for the Management and conservation of biodiversity is promoted.

FIFTH: Collaborate in the development of activities that would promote the integration of biodiversity information with spatial data, with the objective of developing value-added tools for decision-making and use these as prototypes for other sub-regions of the American Continent.

SIXTH: Promote the strengthening of the technical capacities in the Meso-American Region on the area of bioinformatics, and in the development of the national, subregional and regional environmental information systems. Similarly, to promote the participation of these systems in the implementation of activities promoted by **IABIN** in the Meso-American Region.

SEVENTH: Collaborate in the development of national, subregional and regional initiatives of mutual interest that promote environmental education, inter-connection of environmental data and connectivity.

EIGHTH: Share, within the limits of available resources, the capacity, experience and knowledge acquired in the development of distributed networks and in the creation of metadata.

NINTH: Facilitate the effective participation of both initiatives in the activities that they organize by inviting representatives of **IABIN** to the activities organized by the **CCAD** and vice versa.

TENTH: Once this **MoC** is signed, a Joint Annual Action Plan would be developed by the Secretariats of both initiatives as an addendum to the Memorandum. This plan will be subject to a periodic evaluation by the Executive Secretariat (**ES**) of the **CCAD** and by the **IEC** of **IABIN**.

ELEVENTH: The parties of this **MoC** may add other joint work areas or activities by mutual agreement and through the development of successive addenda.

TWELFTH: This **MoC** will last five (5) years from the date of its signature, but may be ended at any time by any of the parties by sending a ninety (90) days notice to the other party, and without affecting the activities already under implementation and which will be carried out until these are finalized. Similarly, this **MoC** may be renewed, after being evaluated by both signing parties one month before its expiration.

THIRTEENTH: The **CCAD** and **IABIN** declare that they do not form a legal society, joint enterprise or any other kind of merchant society, and that the main purpose of the parties is not to establish a for-profit commercial enterprise. Any kind of duties or taxes or legal or administrative responsibility that could derive from this agreement will be the individual responsibility of the parties, according to their individual legal status.

In good faith of the previous agreements and accepting all clauses of this **MoC**, the legal representatives of the **CCAD** and **IABIN** sign two (2) copies of this agreement in Spanish and two (2) copies in English that are of the same content and validity, in the City of Managua on the 20th of the month of October of 2005.

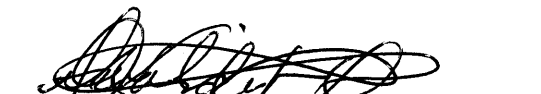


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Gladys Cotter
Chair
Inter-American Biodiversity
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Witness:


Iván A. Valdespino
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