



## PROGRAM BACKGROUND

### AGREEMENTS

In February 2005, the CAFTA-DR countries—Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the United States—signed an **ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT (ECA)**, in which they acknowledged that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent, mutually-reinforcing factors in achieving sustainable development.

The CAFTA-DR countries developed the ECA in concert with **CHAPTER 17 (ENVIRONMENT)** of the **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (CAFTA-DR)**, in which they commit to expanding their cooperative relationship to achieve their shared environmental and economic goals.

The ECA sets out the framework for an environmental cooperation program under the supervision of an Environmental Cooperation Commission (ECC), composed of government representatives from each party. Representatives from those ministries or departments serve as Points of Contact (POCs) for cooperative work under the ECA.

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For more information on Agreements, Themes, Activities, News, Newsletters, Outreach/Publications, Videos and more, go to [www.caftadr-environment.org](http://www.caftadr-environment.org) (English) or [www.drcafta-ambiente.org](http://www.drcafta-ambiente.org) (Spanish).

### ACTIVITIES

The **ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION PROGRAM** carries out numerous Activities reaching thousands of people across broad and varied geographical and social spectrums. It emphasizes capacity building, development of voluntary mechanisms (such as partnerships, market-based initiatives and economic incentives), adoption of best practices and exchange of information.

### THEMES

- **Theme A Institutional Strengthening**  
Improves laws, strengthens enforcement and encourages public participation
- **Theme B Biodiversity & Conservation**  
Protects wildlife and habitat; supports sustainable use of natural resources
- **Theme C Market-Based Conservation**  
Promotes environmentally sustainable income-generating activities to conserve natural resources
- **Theme D Private Sector Environmental Performance**  
Encourages cleaner production methods and environmental management systems