



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
USAID COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT No. LAG-A-00-02-00001-00
PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH INCLUSION, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND DEMOCRATIZATION IN LATIN AMERICA
QUARTERLY REPORT
1 April - 30 June 2008

INTRODUCTION

This document contains the Quarterly Report of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR), covering the period 1 April - 30 June 2008, for USAID Cooperative Agreement No. LAG-A-00-02-00001-00. The report describes the activities that USAID funded, in whole or in part, during the period in question. The agreement consists of the following three components:

- A. Promoting a Culture of Inclusion
- B. Conflict Prevention
- C. Democratization of Political Processes.

The report is divided into three sections, each dealing with one of the three components. An **IIHR Organizational Chart, Overview** and **Budget** for the agreement have been attached to this document.

A. PROMOTING A CULTURE OF INCLUSION

I. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

The *Promoting a culture of inclusion project* consists of the following four components: 1) Assessments of the impact of legislation designed to advance gender equality; 2) Research on the implementation of quota mechanisms; 3) Applied research on the participation of indigenous peoples in political and civic life; and, 4) Applied research on the extent to which the Afro-descendant population is able to exercise its citizens' rights and participate in political life. For the reporting period (**April-June 2008**), activities were programmed under all four components.

The documentation related to the "Assessments of the impact of legislation designed to advance gender equality component" is now ready to go to the printer's for the production of the corresponding publication. The "Research on the implementation of quota mechanisms" is also nearing completion.

With regard to the "Applied research on the participation of indigenous populations in political and civic life," April saw the presentation in Mexico of the book ***Studies on indigenous political participation. Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru***, taking advantage of a technical assistance mission with the project counterpart. In the January-March report, mention was made of a mission to Colombia to present the Studies on indigenous political participation and "*Panel of experts to assess the situation regarding the political participation of the Afro-descendant population in Colombia.*" However, the Afro-descendant counterparts in that country requested that the mission be reprogrammed for a later date (August-September 2008).

Finally, from the outset the project had planned to carry out applied research on the extent to which the Afro-descendant population is able to exercise its citizens' rights and participate in political life in four countries, namely Colombia, Honduras, Panama and Uruguay (with emphasis on Panama and Colombia). As pointed out in the previous report, work is now being carried out in Ecuador instead of Panama. During the reporting period, substantial progress was made with the research in Ecuador. Over the next quarter, the research will focus on Honduras, with a technical assistance mission programmed. The work in Uruguay has consisted mainly of documentary research.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Goal 1: To determine the impact that equal opportunity legislation has had on public policies and the institutional framework		
ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Assessments of the impact of legislation designed to advance gender equality</p> <p>Objective: To foster the production of specialized knowledge about the impact of legislation designed to create equal opportunities for women and men</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current phase of the project involves the final stage of the production of the publication containing the final document on the comparative analysis and national research on the impact of equal opportunity legislation in the five countries studied (Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama and Venezuela). The book will be available at the beginning of August. The research findings are, of course, available in the <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR website. http://www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/DerechosMujer/publicaciones_doc.htm • In July, project staff will be contacting the consultants and organizations that conducted the research in each country to plan the public dissemination of the results. • The IIHR has continued to disseminate the research findings and comparative analysis via other activities not part of the project or at the invitation of other organizations. During the period under review (April-June): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The IIHR, working with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law of the University of Lund, Sweden, held a human rights course for 25 people from Latin America representing governmental and nongovernmental sectors. The course consists of two onsite activities, one in Sweden and another in Costa Rica. One of the academic components of the first activity, which took place 20 May - 13 June, involved the presentation of the findings of national research and the comparative analysis. • As noted in the previous report, in 2007 and 2008, four new pieces of legislation have been enacted in the region (Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Nicaragua), possibly paving the way for future work in the same field. • The <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR website was updated continuously with digital materials related to equality and gender equity. As of 30 June 2008, 6758 items were available in the different subsections (<i>Información General, Proyectos IIDH, Biblioteca Digital, Otros Sitios</i>), plus a directory of 746 organizations devoted to the advancement of women's rights. The section was visited 50,193 times between 1 April and 30 June 2008, an average of 659 times per day, with each visit lasting an average of 23:01 minutes (statistics compiled using WebTrends software). 	<p>“More information available, making it possible to assess and monitor the impact of specific legislation intended to advance equality between women and men”</p> <p>The process of systematization / comparative analysis of the information and its results is providing input for correcting the actions in the countries studied and monitoring the legislation enacted recently in other countries, producing knowledge in areas that hitherto had been explored very little.</p> <p>Presenting the findings of the research in activities that are not part of the project is increasing the dissemination of the research and confirming the importance of research of this kind.</p> <p>Means of verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research available research on the DerechosMujer specialized section of the IIHR website - Materials related to equality and gender equity are available on line, in the specialized section - Webtrends software - Program and academic evaluations of the aforementioned course

Goal 2: To consolidate the know-how and capabilities for follow-up and advocacy efforts related to specific legislation designed to encourage the participation of women in political life

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Research on the implementation of quota mechanisms</p> <p>Objective: To produce specialized knowledge for providing follow-up to the implementation of legislation designed to encourage the participation of women in political life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current phase of the project entails the final stage of the production of the publication containing the results of the electoral bodies' application and monitoring of legislation establishing quota mechanisms, designed to encourage women to take part in political life. Eleven Latin American countries have established quota mechanisms in their respective electoral legislation, namely: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru. • A mission to Paraguay was carried out 5-9 May. Working with the specialists in charge of the study, comparative analysis and assessment, the mission processed all the available data (statistics, legal information, jurisprudence and bibliographies) and revised/made adjustments to the different articles that will appear in the planned publication. • The main research findings were described in previous reports, linked to the areas of analysis that had been established. The structure and content of the publication, taking the comparative analysis into account, is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Introduction explaining the relationship between equality and democracy, on the one hand, and affirmative action mechanisms, good practices and the difficulties involved in implementing them, on the other. The citizenship of women and the rule of law. ✓ The conceptual development of affirmative actions as a way of addressing social asymmetry and promoting inclusion. ✓ The relationship between quota mechanisms and electoral systems. ✓ Methods of monitoring the implementation of quotas (mechanisms established in legislation and informal ones). ✓ Importance of constitutional and electoral justice for the effectiveness of quotas. ✓ Women's right to political participation and the protection standards of the Inter-American System. ✓ From quota mechanisms to parity and initiatives discussed recently by legislative bodies (Costa Rica, Ecuador, Bolivia). ✓ The following documents will be included as annexes to complete the analytical information: the specialized bibliography on women's political rights; tables with data on the number of women legislators in Latin America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean. For the year prior to the introduction of quotas, 2002 and 2007, broken down by country; the text of the questionnaire sent to the electoral bodies; and the four matrixes used to systematize the replies to the questionnaires. • The IIHR continues to disseminate the research findings and the comparative analysis via other activities not part of the project or at the invitation of other organizations. During the period under review (April-June), the project took advantage of 	<p>“More information available about the experiences of electoral bodies in implementing quota legislation, making it possible to evaluate and monitor its impact”</p> <p>The process of systematizing the data and conducting a comparative analysis is helping to achieve the objective of this activity and the impact indicator.</p> <p>The preliminary findings of the research are very important as far as the implementation of quota mechanisms is concerned. They will be of use to not only the electoral tribunals and civil society organizations, but also for the next report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), which will deal with the political rights of women in the Americas.</p> <p>Presenting the findings of the research in activities that are not part of the project is increasing the dissemination of the research and confirming the importance of research of this kind.</p> <p>Means of verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final versions of 9 analytical articles that form part of the publication and all the annexes thereto - Materials on line related to political rights and quotas - Webtrends software

	<p>the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ As part of the activities it is promoting in El Salvador related to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the IIHR is supporting the women's human rights component of a diploma course for 30 women from all the political parties. This is being promoted by the association of current and former women lawmakers and the UNDP. Part of the academic content of this module (session held on 22 April) dealt with political rights and the preliminary research findings were presented. ✓ In July, the project will be contacting the electoral bodies and nongovernmental organizations in the 11 countries to plan the public dissemination of the information. • In 2007, Ecuador approved a constitutional provision on parity, part of the ongoing process of drafting a new Political Constitution. In Costa Rica, as part of the reform of the electoral code, the corresponding Legislative Assembly Commission approved a series of articles on parity. This could pave the way for future work on the subject. • The project continuously updated the <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR's website, uploading materials on political rights and quotas (see previous section for statistics). 	<p>- Program and academic evaluations of the session of the diploma course mentioned.</p>
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Goal 3: To help organizations of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations and CSOs that provide follow-up to political and electoral processes and engage in advocacy enhance their expertise and capabilities for monitoring and influencing specific legislation intended to encourage the aforesaid populations to participate in political life

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Applied research on the participation of indigenous peoples in political and civic life</p> <p>Objective: To broaden the scope of the studies on the actions of electoral bodies in selected countries or undertake new studies on the participation of indigenous populations in political and electoral life</p>	<p>A. Production of specialized knowledge The second stage of this component of the project got under way, involving research on the participation of indigenous peoples in political and electoral life in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Peru. The research will gauge the possible impact that participation in political - mainly electoral - processes (indigenous candidates running for elected office) may have had on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organizational dynamics of indigenous populations. For example, the weakening, strengthening or transformation of indigenous organizations and their platforms; • Changes in the behavior of the indigenous electorate. For example, larger or smaller numbers turning out to vote, electoral preferences (in local and national elections); • Changes in the platforms of the parties or the candidates (inclusion of indigenous issues or campaigning in indigenous regions); • Characterization of relations between indigenous citizens (as virtual new voters) and indigenous organizations and elected indigenous officials; • Changes in public opinion (media) related to the indigenous electorate and its agendas; and, 	<p>“More information available about the actions of electoral organizations with respect to measures that encourage or hinder the participation of indigenous peoples in political life and electoral processes”</p> <p>The project has achieved this indicator. Moreover, the activities carried out in Mexico made it possible to present comparative information about the situation in other countries, thereby providing input for the approaches and increasing the prospects of work in that country as part of a regional effort - focusing on both indigenous</p>

- Modifications to the electoral institutional framework related to the emerging indigenous electorate.

An IIHR/CAPEL official carried out a technical assistance mission to Mexico, as the Civil Society Program Officer in charge of the project was unable to travel for health reasons. The mission, which took place **8-11 April**, involved working meetings with the counterpart (CIESAS) and other entities involved in the issue (Federal Electoral Institute, Electoral Tribunal, international agencies (UNDP), donors (FORD) and specialists and people interested and involved in the issue. Both the meetings and the academic activity proved to be a useful experience for the IIHR as a whole. The counterparts and academics were impressed by the fact that, under the Inclusion Project with USAID, the IIHR/CAPEL and the Department of Civil Society had adopted a multidisciplinary approach to the indigenous issues involved based on their particular perspectives and areas of specialization.

B. Training and information

- **Training modules on the participation of the indigenous population in political life**

In press

- **Presentations of the book “Estudios sobre participación política indígena. Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, México, Panamá y Perú.”** The presentation in Guatemala is being programmed for the **first week of August** and the one in Colombia for **August or September**, in coordination with the IIHR/CAPEL. The project is still considering the possibility of organizing a presentation in Peru. A public presentation of the book was held on **9 April** at the headquarters of CIESAS in Mexico, taking advantage of the technical assistance mission already mentioned. Various Mexican academics commented on the book’s contents and spoke about the situation in their country with regard to indigenous political participation. Pigeon Bonfil talked about the political participation of indigenous women and Ricardo Valverde gave details of the elections in Guatemala and the IIHR/CAPEL’s experience. One of the most important outcomes was the fact that the comparative analysis with other countries in the region placed Mexico’s experience in context. It is clear that the predicament of indigenous women involves a complex mix of elements on which little academic work has been done. Sometimes frictions occur among the gender, ethnic-indigenous and party political agendas. This is an important field for future action by the Indigenous Peoples and

political participation in general and indigenous women in particular.

In addition, CIESAS of Mexico - as a counterpart of the project - began to hold a series of meetings with national and foreign academics and indigenous leaders, and women political actors from the Legislative and Executive Branches, the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) and the Electoral Tribunal. As the aim is to achieve a cumulative effect, nine activities have been held since **January 2008** involving roughly 500 people.

More information is also available thanks to the research carried out, systematized and reported and the systematic dissemination of the project’s activities and specialized information, via the *Diversidades* section of the IIHR website, affording the project’s target populations access to this knowledge.

The project’s objective and impact indicator are, therefore, being achieved.

Means of verification:

- Research available in the *Diversidades* section of the IIHR website
- Materials related to the human rights of indigenous populations are available on line in the *Diversidades* section of the IIHR website

HR Program.

- An officer of the Indigenous Peoples Program taking part in an event in Quito and Tena, Ecuador, from **7-16 April** took advantage of the opportunity to promote the publication in that country. The atmosphere in the country was feverish because of the indigenous proposals that were being presented to the Constituent Assembly. Around that time the multinational nature of the Ecuadorian State was recognized (one of the main indigenous demands, along with the recognition to the right to prior, free, informed consent and a chapter in the Constitution on the rights of nature). As a result, it was not possible to hold a public presentation of the book. However, copies were presented to the presidents of CONAIE and CONFENAIE and to the 60 delegates taking part in the first international meeting on indigenous peoples and cross-border territories in the Amazon region, who were from Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador.
- The mission programmed to present the publication in Colombia had to be rescheduled with the IIHR/CAPEL. USAID/Colombia will be informed at once.
- As noted in the previous report, the project decided to replace the meeting of protagonists with a virtual forum or videoconference. During the period under review, project staff began sounding out the consultants in the countries where the research is being conducted, under the supervision of the IIHR/CIESAS team, about the possibility of holding a videoconference. The representatives of the Global Learning Network in Costa Rica (the public national distance university), with which the other events of this kind are carried out, say that because the team in each country is small a videoconference would be more expensive. The project is therefore looking into the matter further. If insufficient funds are available for a videoconference, the project will use the *Diversidades* specialized section of the IIHR website to hold a discussion forum.

C. Dissemination

The *Diversidades* specialized section of the IIHR website was updated and digital materials uploaded related to the human rights of indigenous peoples and other segments of the population most susceptible to racist and discriminatory practices. Between 1 April and 30 June 2008, the number of items available in the different subsections (*Acerca de nosotros*, *Notas de actualidad*, *Documentos en línea sobre Pueblos Indígenas y Afrodescendientes*, *Documentos en Línea sobre Migrantes*, *Campaña Educativa sobre Derechos Humanos y Derechos Indígenas*, and *Publicaciones IIDH*) reached **10,122**, plus a **directory of 546 organizations** involved in promoting the human rights of the target populations. The specialized section was visited **56,008** times between April and June - an average of **615** times per day, with each visit lasting an average of **26:01** minutes.

- Webtrends software

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Applied research on the extent to which the Afro-descendant population in Colombia and Ecuador is able to exercise its citizens' rights and participate in political life</p> <p>Objective: To enhance the capabilities of the Afro-descendant population and organizations that monitor and engage in advocacy in political-electoral processes</p>	<p>A. Production of specialized knowledge The aim of this stage of the research is to establish the possible impact that the participation of Afro-descendant communities, organizations or movements in political, and especially electoral, processes (Afro-descendant candidates running for elected office in Ecuador and Honduras) may have had on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal provisions and regulations governing the political participation of the Afro-descendant population in Ecuador and Honduras; • The organizational dynamics of Afro-descendant peoples. For example, the weakening, strengthening or transformation of the organizations and their platforms; • Changes in the behavior of the Afro-descendant electorate. For example, larger or smaller numbers turning out to vote, electoral preferences (in local and national elections); • Changes in the platforms of the parties or the candidates (inclusion of Afro-descendant issues or campaigning in Afro-descendant regions); and, • Characterization of relations between Afro-descendant citizens (as virtual new voters) and Afro-descendant organizations and elected Afro-descendant officials. <p>Activities carried out: 1. Documentary research. To achieve the above, the following actions were implemented: Identification and compilation of documentary information - in the case of Ecuador and Honduras related to: socio-demographic data; legal recognition of the status of the rights of Afro-descendants; national and regional institutions whose work focuses on Afro-descendants; special laws; general electoral legislation and, if they exist, special provisions governing regions with a high concentration of Afro-descendants or special electoral districts; social actors such as Afro-descendant organizations, movements or political parties (content related to Afro-descendants in traditional political parties); results of recent electoral processes (last two electoral periods) - national elections and especially local elections in regions with a high concentration of Afro-descendants (in the case of Ecuador, focusing especially on the electoral process related to the Constitutional Assembly).</p> <p>A great deal of the information mentioned here was processed in previous stages of the research. However, the collection of information available has increased and, where necessary, it has been updated.</p> <p>2. Field visits 2.1. Ecuador. 20 May - 5 June. A field study was carried out in Ecuador and advantage was taken of the opportunity to compile the bibliographic material needed to complete the documentary information. The purpose of this field visit was to establish</p>	<p>"More information available about the actions of electoral organizations with respect to measures that encourage or hinder the participation of the Afro-descendant population in political life and electoral processes in Colombia and Ecuador"</p> <p>The project has achieved this indicator by means of specific research and dissemination actions - e.g., the activities carried out by CIESAS in Mexico at both the national and international levels.</p> <p>More information is available thanks to the research that has been carried out, systematized and reported, and the systematic dissemination of the project's activities and specialized information via the <i>Diversidades</i> section of the IIHR website. The project's target populations are thus being afforded access to this knowledge. The objective and the impact indicator are, therefore, being achieved.</p> <p>Means of verification: - Research available in the <i>Diversidades</i> section of the IIHR website - Materials related to the human rights of Afro-descendant populations are available on line in the <i>Diversidades</i> section of the IIHR website - Webtrends software</p>

contact with leading social actors who could contribute information needed for the ongoing study. The informants were selected bearing in mind the need to document the political participation experiences of the social actors, as not only activists within the organizations but also in electoral processes and the public administration. Guidelines were drawn up for one-on-one interviews and 10 interviews were conducted. They are now being transcribed with a view to obtaining important information for the study.

People interviewed: Jhon Antón Sánchez, anthropologist. Adviser to the Executive Secretary. CODAE; José Chala, anthropologist, Executive Secretary of CODAE; Mae Montaña. Member of Constituent Assembly (UNO party); Alexandra Ocles. Member of Constituent Assembly for Pichincha province. (Alianza País party); Juan Carlos Ocles, Coordinator, Development Unit, Pueblo Afro-Ecuatoriano. City hall of Quito Metropolitan District; Douglas Quintero. Lawyer, legal adviser CODAE; Orfa Reynoso. Federation of Black Organizations and Groups of Pichincha; Blanca Tadeo. Institution building CODAE; Renan Tadeo. Economist. President of the Federation of black communities and organizations of Imbabura and Carchi (FECONIC); Sonia Viveros. Technologist. Sonia Viveros. Director "AZÚCAR," Foundation for Afro-Ecuadorian Social and Cultural Development. The interviews are being processed: transcription, selection of useful information, analysis of what is compiled.

Results: The research work on the ground was successful. The interviews with key informants have generated information it would not have been possible to obtain otherwise - especially as regards the evolution of the political leadership and how it is involved in the national political dynamic. In the case of Ecuador, the leadership has a high professional profile and a lot of political capital. This makes the analysis especially interesting, to understand how Afro-descendant organizations and communities have become engaged with Ecuador's political dynamic.

2.2 Honduras. The visit to Honduras in **September 2008** is currently being programmed. The project contacted leaders of Afro-Honduran organizations (ODECO, OFRANEH and others) and hopes to arrange meetings with mayors and other officials from the municipalities and patronatos that belong to the Mancomunidad de Municipios Garifuna de Honduras (Balfate, Santa Fe, Trujillo, Santa Rosa de Aguán, Limón, Iriona, depto. of Colon; and Juan Francisco Bulnes, Department de Gracias a Dios). Special emphasis will be placed on meetings with Garifuna lawmakers in Honduras' National Congress (Dayana Martínez, for Francisco Morazán; Rubén García, for Cortés; Jerry Dave Hynds Julio, for Islas de la Bahía; Aurelio Martínez, for Atlántida and Maribel López Solórzano, Martínez's substitute.)

3. - Academic activity

Comprising four lectures and over 120 presentations by Mexican, Central American, European and North American scientists, the “Congreso diáspora, nación y diferencia,” which took place in Veracruz, Mexico from 10-13 June, was a great success in terms of both the scientific contribution it made and its impact and the media coverage it received. The IIHR/CIESAS project took part in this event and had the opportunity to undertake a painstaking assessment of the latest research in Mexico and Central America. A wealth of theoretical innovations and new perspectives were presented, based on works documented in archives and ethnographic research. Based on the research under way, the project gave a presentation entitled: *Access to citizenship and political participation of the Afro-descendant population*, as part of the forum on *Ethnic citizenship: access to rights*. The presentation was well received. The issue addressed and the short presentation of the matrix developed during the first stage of the research attracted interest from the participants, especially some of the academics present. It has a direct link with the work done by Juliet Hooker of the University of Texas, involving research on the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua on the scope and limits of the Afro Latin American organizations in their struggle to obtain their rights. The matrix also attracted interest from Afro activist organizations (specifically, from George Priestley, a member of the Panamanian Committee against Racism).

On **10 April**, an academic meeting was held at CIESAS to conduct an in-depth analysis, with the IIHR, of the scope of the book *Estudios sobre la participación política de la población afro descendiente: la experiencia en Colombia*, produced under this project, and to discuss possible actions for promoting the issue both in Mexico and in other countries of the hemisphere.

B. Training and information/dissemination

Information about the dissemination of the project via *Diversidades* can be found in the previous section (see statistics).

The presentation of the book *Estudios sobre la participación política de la población afro descendiente: la experiencia en Colombia*, which was due to take place in that country in **May** had to be postponed again at the request of the Afro-descendant counterparts. It is being rescheduled with the IIHR/CAPEL for the coming months. USAID in Bogotá will be notified as soon as a decision is taken.

B. CONFLICT PREVENTION

B.1 PROJECT: RAPID RESPONSE SYSTEM

1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

In July, Elizabeth Ramírez of USAID/Washington confirmed via email that insufficient funds will be available to work with political parties in Peru under the rapid response system project, bearing in mind that part of the funds have been earmarked for the IIHR to work with the Synergos Institute on the development of a fundraising strategy. It was recommended that CAPEL use the remaining rapid response funds (around US\$20,000.00) for its work in one or two of the following countries: El Salvador, Honduras and/or Ecuador. In a conference call on 18 July involving the head of the Office of the IIHR's Executive Director, Victoria Napky, the Director of the IIHR's Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance, Joseph Thompson, and USAID/Washington official Elizabeth Ramírez, it was decided that the prospects for work were better in Ecuador and Honduras. In Ecuador, because the IIHR has been invited to observe the referendum to approve the Constitution scheduled for the end of September. In Honduras, the President of the Electoral Tribunal recently asked the IIHR for technical assistance and training in the run up to the primary and presidential elections due to be held 2008-2009. Ms. Ramírez will follow up the matter with USAID/Ecuador and USAID/Honduras to determine whether rapid response funds will be used for work in both countries, or only one.

C. DEMOCRATIZATION OF POLITICAL PROCESSES

C.1 PROJECT: STRENGTHENING ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS (FIE)

I. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

Two important electoral processes took place in the region between **April and June**, both of which included presidential elections. In the general elections held in **Paraguay on 20 April**, a former Catholic bishop (Fernando Lugo) was elected President for the first time. In **the Dominican Republic**, President Leonel Fernández was reelected on **16 May**. In its capacity as the Executive Secretariat of the Associations of Electoral Bodies (Tikal Protocol, Quito Protocol and UNIORE), the IIHR/CAPEL was invited to take part in both processes.

The Electoral Network operated normally during this quarter and two **UNIORE** newsletters were produced (for **April 2008** and **May-June 2008**). English and Spanish versions of the newsletters are available on the Web page.

Under the **Exploratory Missions** component, during the reporting period representatives of the **IIHR/CAPEL** and the **United Nations Electoral Training Center** in **Mexico (UNDP/Mexico)** conducted the final mission to **the Dominican Republic (13-15 April)** for work with the **Central Electoral Board**. The mission worked with the **EFEC (national school for training in the work of the electoral and civil registries)** on aspects of electoral training that had a positive impact on the **16 May** elections. Officials of the regional elections boards received training and they, in turn, trained polling officers.

An **exploratory mission** was also carried out to **Paraguay** during this quarter, in the run up to the general elections held on **20 April**. The mission, comprised of a member of the **Electoral Court of Uruguay**, Rodolfo González and IIHR/CAPEL consultant Horacio Cánepa, was in **Asunción** from **1-3 April**.

Finally, the **Applied Research** project took a significant step forward with the publication of the research on elections that result in narrow margins of victory in **Cuaderno de CAPEL No. 52**. The research was carried out by experts **Wálter Araujo (El Salvador)**, **Zetty Bou (Costa Rica)**, **Lorenzo Córdova (Mexico)**, **Percy Medina (Peru)**, **José Enrique Molina (Venezuela)** and **Carmen Gloria Valladares (Chile)**. Both printed and digital versions of the publication are available (the latter on CAPEL's Web page).

The **Fourteenth Conference of South American Electoral Bodies (Quito Protocol)** took place **25-27 June in Buenos Aires, Argentina**. On **26 June**, a special meeting was held to discuss the **Electoral Jurisprudence** project. The participants included current and former judges and officials of the **Elections Tribunal of Chile**, the **Supreme Elections Tribunal of Costa Rica**, the **Central Electoral Board of the Dominican Republic**, the **National Electoral Court of Argentina** and the **IIHR/CAPEL**. The guidelines were established for a database of jurisprudence from the region. Normally, USAID funds are used to help finance the meetings of the Quito Protocol but, since this year's conference took place in Argentina, funds from other donors were used.

The **Twenty-second Conference of the Tikal Protocol** will be taking place in **Nicaragua** in the **second half of 2008**. The Executive Secretariat and the **Supreme Electoral Council of Nicaragua** have yet to set a date. The **Ninth Conference of UNIORE** will be taking place in El Salvador in the first week of September. The Executive Secretariat is in the process of consulting the members about the date.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Annual Goal 1: To consolidate the activities of the Inter-American Electoral Network aimed at strengthening the electoral bodies, basically those called upon to organize electoral processes in 2008		
ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Inter-American Electoral Network</p> <p>Objective: To continue administering the network of networks of electoral bodies that belong to the different associations</p>	<p>The results of this activity can be seen in the changes made to CAPEL's Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/capel)</p> <p>The results can be divided into:</p> <p>Intermediate results: Updating of the electoral calendar Updating of the Directory of Electoral Organizations</p> <p>Follow-up: Continuous dissemination by the IIHR/CAPEL of institutional news and news items from the SINE-Panama</p> <p>Final results: Updating of the data on five electoral bodies (Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru). Uploading to the Web page of UNIORE newsletters nos. 77-78 (April and May-June 2008) in English and Spanish.</p> <p>At least 25 news items generated by the SINE, on electoral and political developments in Latin America, posted on the Web page each day.</p> <p>Uploading of various IIHR/CAPEL materials, stored in a folder to which only the Institute's officials have access. The documents it contains are important for the department.</p> <p>A publication, Cuaderno de CAPEL 52, and information about electoral jurisprudence in the Dominican Republic, were uploaded.</p>	<p>“Network of electoral organizations in the region expanded and strengthened”</p> <p>“More documentation and comparative experiences that will serve as input for the work of the associations and research projects”</p> <p>“Electoral bodies and members of the electoral network in general have more up-to-date knowledge”</p> <p>“Easier access to up-to-date political and electoral information”</p> <p>During the period under review (April-June), the staff continued to update the information on several electoral bodies in the region. Twenty-six new members were added to the list and fourteen names were eliminated, giving a net increase of twelve for this quarter.</p> <p>Means of verification:</p> <p>IIHR/CAPEL Web page: www.iidh.ed.cr/capel</p> <p>Mailing list of the Electoral Network: 633 people</p>

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Newsletters of the Inter-American Union of Electoral Organizations (UNIORE)</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>To continue keeping the members of the Inter-American Electoral Network abreast of the most important political and electoral developments in the Americas</p> <p>To disseminate information about activities related to the associations of electoral bodies</p>	<p>Two UNIORE newsletters - nos. 77-78 (April and May-June 2008) - were produced in Spanish and translated into English.</p> <p>The newsletters were distributed in both printed and digital formats, via the mailing lists of the Electoral Network and the specialized section of the IIHR/CAPEL's Web page and SINE-Panama.</p>	<p>“Electoral information disseminated more widely in the hemisphere”</p> <p>“More documents and experiences shared on electoral topics and processes in the region”</p> <p>“Users of the network more conversant with electoral topics and processes in the region”</p> <p>During this quarter (April-June), the UNIORE newsletters continued to be well received by both old and new members of the Network. In emails received, they thanked the IIHR/CAPEL for sending them the information and endorsed the newsletters' content.</p> <p>This has been the case especially since copies of bulletins from the IIHR Executive Director began to be sent to the individuals included in the distribution list for the UNIORE newsletter.</p> <p>Means of verification:</p> <p>SINE-Panama</p> <p>CAPEL's specialized section of the IIHR Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/capel)</p> <p>Mailing list of electoral network: 633 people</p>

Annual Goal 2: To strengthen selected electoral organizations and those engaged in electoral and political reform processes in 2008

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Exploratory Missions</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>To keep up-to-date the table of technical needs of members of the Inter-American Electoral Network</p> <p>To identify areas in which assistance is needed to enhance the technical capabilities of the electoral bodies</p>	<p>The IIHR/CAPEL and UNDP/Mexico conducted the project's last joint technical mission to the Dominican Republic from 13-15 March to carry out work with the Central Electoral Board related to the creation of the EFEC (national school for training in the work of the electoral and civil registries). Ricardo Valverde of the IIHR/CAPEL and Carlos González of UNDP/Mexico held meetings with the EFEC's managerial and academic teams to discuss certain aspects of the preparation of the final proceedings of the project, the status of the School's main programs - electoral training, training in the work of the Civil Registry and citizen training - and recommendations for future work.</p> <p>The mission members presented the EFEC with a donation of IIHR/CAPEL publications, to increase the EFEC's collection of documents and afford users and researchers access to some of the most recent works on Latin American electoral doctrine.</p> <p>A second exploratory mission was also carried out to Paraguay during this quarter, in the run up to the presidential elections on 20 April. The mission was in Asunción from 1-3 April. The members of the mission were Uruguayan electoral judge Rodolfo González Risotto and IIHR/CAPEL consultant Horacio Cánepa. As was the case during the previous mission (carried out in March of this year), the experts made recommendations regarding the setting up of a system for the immediate transmission of results, a public screen and the transmission of results via the electoral body's own electronic network. The citizenry wants to know the winner of the elections on 20 April 2008 as soon as possible. These IIHR/CAPEL missions in the run up to the elections confirmed that the essential technical aspects of the process are designed to operate smoothly. The administrative guarantees notwithstanding, their impartiality and effectiveness will have to be demonstrated and proven on election day.</p>	<p>"Updating of technical needs in the electoral field"</p> <p>"Progress in identifying areas for technical assistance"</p> <p>In the Dominican Republic, the project for the creation of a national school for training in the work of the electoral and civil registries had a positive impact on the voting process on 16 May. Its impact was clear in the work of the electoral boards in charge of the process, which also trained the polling officers. During its subsequent evaluation session, the horizontal cooperation mission (comprised of members of UNIORE) highlighted the expeditious, efficient work of the polling stations.</p> <p>In the case of Paraguay, the technical recommendations made to the TSJE by the earlier missions and the electoral observation mission had a positive impact on the electoral body's decisions concerning the logistics on election day and the transmission of results, avoiding conflicts.</p> <p>Means of verification: Report on Horizontal Cooperation Mission to the Dominican Republic (in preparation)</p>

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Applied Research</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>To generate specialized doctrine to support the Inter-American Electoral Network</p> <p>To meet the need for up-to-date information in areas and on issues that the Executive Secretariat is asked expressly to provide</p>	<p>The research on elections that result in narrow margins of victory was published in Cuaderno de CAPEL No. 52 in June. Printed and digital versions are available (the latter in the Academic Publications section of CAPEL's Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/capel)).</p> <p>The Fourteenth Conference of South American Electoral Bodies (Quito Protocol) took place 25-27 June in Buenos Aires, Argentina and, on 26 June, a special meeting was held to discuss the Electoral Jurisprudence project. The following individuals from the Federal Electoral Tribunal of Mexico took part in the meeting: judge Pedro Esteban Penagos López, the Coordinator of Relations with Electoral Bodies, Héctor Dávalos, and Verónica Nava. The IIHR/CAPEL was represented by its Director, José Thompson, and program officers Ricardo Valverde, Sofía Vincenzi and María Lourdes González. Also involved were the President of the Supreme Elections Tribunal of Costa Rica, Luis Antonio Sobrado, a former judge of the Federal Electoral Tribunal of Mexico, Jesús Orozco, and a judge from the Central Electoral Board of the Dominican Republic, Mariano Rodríguez.</p> <p>The electoral bodies of Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico and the Dominican Republic were among the first to systematize their electoral jurisprudence. Therefore, they are key partners in the electoral jurisprudence project.</p> <p>The results of the meeting were as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The participants discussed the status of the project to decide what actions needed to be taken. 2) They also considered the technological progress that has been made, in particular in improving the search engines and adapting advances already implemented by electoral bodies in countries such as Argentina and Mexico, for the benefit of 	<p>Impact Indicators:</p> <p>“More comparative knowledge available related to political rights and electoral processes”</p> <p>“Dissemination and sharing of up-to-date information to support the activities of the Inter-American Electoral Network”</p> <p>Printed and digital versions of Cuaderno de CAPEL 52 are now in circulation, which means that the information contained in it is being disseminated among all the users of the Web page and the Electoral Network.</p> <p>Means of verification:</p> <p>IIHR/CAPEL Web page: www.iidh.ed.cr/capel</p> <p>Agreements of the Fourteenth Conference are available on the Web page</p>

electoral bodies in other countries of the region.

3) **On 27 June**, a presentation on the status of project was made to the delegates to the Fourteenth Conference and the members of the Quito Protocol pledged to collaborate with the project by assigning technical officials to liaise with the Executive Secretariat. **Agreement Number 4** of the Fourteenth Conference states: “As organizations, [we] agree to assign a technical liaison in the near future to work with the Secretariat, to carry out the work needed to develop and update the database on electoral jurisprudence.”

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Horizontal Cooperation Missions</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>To share and transfer know-how and experiences among electoral bodies</p>	<p>A mission was organized to observe the General Elections on 20 April, following an invitation from Paraguay’s Superior Electoral Court. Thirteen judges and officials from eleven Latin American countries took part, all members of the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE). The IIHR’s President, Sonia Picado, and the Director of the IIHR/CAPEL also took part. The mission’s high-level meetings included sessions with the four candidates who subsequently received most votes. It traveled to various parts of the country on election day. The IIHR officials also held meetings with the platform of civil society organizations involved in the national observation activities and with the international missions of the OAS and IFES.</p> <p>The Central Electoral Board of the Dominican Republic organized an international mission comprising forty electoral judges and officials from 19 countries in the Americas that visited the country to observe the presidential elections on 16 May. The mission was led by the Director of the IIHR/CAPEL, José Thompson, who was accompanied by Program Officers María Lourdes González and Ricardo Valverde. The IIHR/CAPEL discussed its current and future projects in the country with USAID/Dominican Republic official Manuel Ortega.</p>	<p>“Electoral legislation or practices modified as a result of the implementation of recommendations or lessons learned from the missions”</p> <p>“The members of the Inter-American Electoral Network have more comparative knowledge of electoral legislation and practices”</p> <p>The missions to Paraguay and Dominican Republic made a series of technical recommendations in their respective reports with regard to aspects that could be improved. The final versions of the reports are nearing completion.</p> <p>Means of Verification:</p> <p>Mission reports</p>

C.2 PROJECT: EQUAL REPRESENTATION AND POLITICAL PARTY REFORM

I. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

As was explained in the previous quarterly report (January-March 2008), the IIHR/CAPEL encountered difficulties with regard to the proposed work in **Panama** under the **Equal Representation and Political Party Reform project**. The IIHR/CAPEL's national counterparts in **Panama** felt that, because of the ongoing electoral activities (primary elections are scheduled for **July 2008** and general elections for **May 2009**), it was best to suspend implementation of the IIHR/CAPEL's strategic plan. An exploratory mission to Panama was carried out in **February 2008** to gauge the feasibility of implementing the strategic plan at the national level. The mission established contacts that will make it possible to work on this Plan in the future. The parties endorsed the plan but are currently focusing all their attention on the primary elections, which will be followed by the elections on **3 May 2009**).

However, an opportunity has now risen to work with political parties in **Chile**, a country that is a priority for IIHR/CAPEL's Strategic Plan to Strengthen Political Parties, in the area of transparency. Chile's Electoral Service has proposed that the IIHR/CAPEL work with it and civil society organizations and Chilean political parties to build the capacity to use the new tools for political financing in the local election campaign that will culminate on **26 October 2008**. The initiative would mark a continuation of the successful work carried out in **Argentina** under the same component. Chile's Electoral Service and senior officials responsible for the parties' accounts would take part in training sessions at the subregional level dealing with the new guidelines on campaign financing.

Consequently, the project requested authorization from USAID/Washington to use the funds originally earmarked for work in Panama for work in Chile during the life of the current agreement. USAID approved the request in an email received on 20 June.

During the period under review, the **Dominican Republic** was focused on the first round of voting in the presidential elections scheduled for **16 May**. The project and its counterparts in that country agreed to recommence activities after **16 May**, provided no run-off vote was needed. No second round of voting was necessary, so contacts have been reestablished and activated for the execution of activities from **July 2008 onwards**.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Annual Goal 1: To implement national projects to strengthen political parties in at least three Latin American countries		
ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Project: Promoting the transparency of political parties in Argentina in the run up to the 2007 elections</p> <p>Objective: To enhance the internal capabilities of political parties, so they can meet the standards of transparency established in Argentine legislation</p>	<p>The project carried out a mission to Buenos Aires, Argentina from 21-25 April, to hold working meetings with the IIHR/CAPEL's counterparts for this initiative - the Argentine civil society organizations Fundación Unidos del Sud and Poder Ciudadano. The mission evaluated the project's activities following the elections in October 2007 and planned various activities for June and September 2008.</p> <p>However, the political crisis in Argentina sparked by farmers' protests against the central government has kept the political parties very busy and involved in many activities. As a result, they requested that the meeting to evaluate the project (originally planned for June) be postponed until August, when the situation would be more favorable.</p>	<p>“Strategic stakeholders agreed on the need to strengthen political parties”</p> <p>“The leaders and treasurers of political parties have greater technical expertise, ensuring they comply with the aspects of transparency established in Argentine legislation”</p> <p>The project's impact cannot yet be measured.</p>

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Project: Strengthening Political Parties in the Dominican Republic</p> <p>Objective: To prepare a Strategic National Action Plan that establishes priorities for the thematic focuses of institutionalization, democratization and transparency</p>	<p>Presidential elections took place in the country on 16 May. There is no progress to report for the period under review as the activities were postponed until the next quarter (July-September).</p>	<p>“Strategic stakeholders agreed on the need to strengthen political parties”</p> <p>“National Plan to Strengthen Political Parties agreed with the political parties and other stakeholders keen to advance democracy”</p> <p>As the electoral process was in full swing between April and June, this activity was reprogrammed and will get under way in July 2008.</p>

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Project: Strengthening Political Parties in Chile</p> <p>Objective: To prepare a Strategic National Action Plan that establishes priorities for the thematic focuses of institutionalization, democratization and transparency</p>	<p>During this quarter, the project asked USAID/Washington for permission to work in Chile instead of Panama. The request was approved and the project will get under way in August 2008.</p>	<p>“Strategic stakeholders agreed on the need to strengthen political parties”</p> <p>“National Plan to Strengthen Political Parties agreed with the political parties and other stakeholders keen to advance democracy”</p> <p>The project’s impact cannot yet be measured.</p>

