



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

SEMIANNUAL REPORT 1 January - 30 June 2007

I. INTRODUCTION

This document contains the Semiannual Report of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, covering the period 1 January - 30 June 2007, 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 can be found at the end of this document.

A. PROMOTING A CULTURE OF INCLUSION

1. PROJECT: PROMOTING A CULTURE OF INCLUSION

1.1 GENERAL FRAMEWORK

The first version of the work plan for January-June 2007, submitted at the end of 2006, had to be reworked to incorporate the changes requested by USAID. The final version was submitted at the end of April 2007. Since the funds for executing the plan were not approved until 16 May, various activities could not get under way until after that date. This meant that changes had to be made to the schedule of activities, as half of the time originally agreed upon for the implementation of the plan (nine months) had already elapsed. Some of the actions planned also had to be scaled back, although a special effort was made to maintain the quality of the actions and outputs, and their impact on the target population.

The components implemented correspond to the activities programmed: 1) Assessments of the impact of legislation designed to advance gender equality; 2) Research on the application of quota mechanisms; 3) Applied research on the participation of indigenous peoples in political and civic life; and, 4) Applied research on access to citizenship and the political participation of the Afro-descendant population in Colombia and Panama.

1.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

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"> • Four final pieces of research (carried out in Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama and Venezuela) available online, in the <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR website. The research focuses on the impact of legislation designed to create equal opportunities for women and men in the three specific areas analyzed: legislation, public policies and the institutionalization of gender equality. http://www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/DerechosMujer/publicaciones_doc.htm • The final document on Colombia was completed and is being prepared for uploading to the Internet. • Project staff also uploaded to the Web page the documents produced following the research carried out in the four countries already mentioned in 2003, during the first phase of the USAID-funded project, in order to disseminate information about the entire research process. You will recall that the first phase of the research, completed in 2003, focused on the articulation of women's CSOs to campaign for the enactment of equality opportunity legislation in the countries concerned. • The first version of the comparative analysis is now available, based on the research carried out in each country. The key aspects of the analysis are: an assessment-based approach; difficulties and weaknesses detected; good practices; and lessons learned. As the final document on Colombia was finished later than originally planned, the information it contains will have to be incorporated into the comparative analysis. • The <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR website was updated continuously with materials in a digital format related to equality and gender equity. As of 30 June 2007, 5277 items were available in the different subsections (<i>Acerca de Nosotros, Para compartir, Documentos, Protección de derechos</i>), plus a directory of 518 organizations devoted to the advancement of women's rights. The section was visited 71,952 times between 1 January and 30 June, an average of 790 times per day, with each visit lasting an average of 16:58 minutes (statistics compiled using WebTrends software). 	<p>“More information available, making it possible to evaluate and monitor the impact of specific legislation intended to advance equality between women and men”</p> <p>The progress of the research and the systematization-comparative analysis of the information are facilitating the production of knowledge in areas that hitherto had been explored very little. Making the information available on line is permitting nongovernmental organizations and government agencies to study the findings of the research and learn from the experiences of others.</p>

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Research on the implementation of quota mechanisms</p> <p>Objective: To produce specialized knowledge required to monitor the implementation of legislation designed to encourage the participation of women in political life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research on the application and monitoring by electoral bodies of legislation designed to encourage women to take part in political life by establishing quotas is in its final stage. So far, eight of the electoral bodies in the 11 countries involved have returned the questionnaire (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Peru and Panama). Ecuador, the Dominican Republic and Paraguay have yet to do so. The data gathered via the questionnaire sent to the electoral bodies is the basis of the research. It has taken the organizations longer than expected to reply because of the large number of electoral processes that took place last year and, in some cases, because of internal problems. The project is attempting to collect data from secondary sources in the remaining three countries. • The first draft of the document systematizing the information contained in the eight questionnaires and making a comparative analysis has already been completed. It focuses on current legislation; implementation and monitoring mechanisms; and the experiences of the electoral bodies in implementing the quota system - enforcement, issuing of regulations, regulatory activities, modifications and the application of sanctions, including practices and resolutions (jurisprudence). The analysis will be complemented with the outstanding information and specific studies by specialists on the topics mentioned above. • The project completed the final version of the specialized document on the protection standards of the Inter-American human rights protection system with regard to quotas, based on the cases involving Argentina and Peru in which rulings were issued. This study also deals with the impact of the protection standards at the national level in correcting the situations that gave rise to the complaints. • The above mentioned document, entitled “The right of women to participate in political life and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Notes on equality,” was uploaded to the <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR website http://www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/DerechosMujer/publicaciones_doc.htm • The project continuously updated the <i>DerechosMujer</i> specialized section of the IIHR website with materials related to political rights and quotas (for the statistics, see the previous section of the report). 	<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. Making information available on line about the protection standards of the Inter-American System is permitting nongovernmental organizations and government agencies to learn more about them and make use of them at the national level.</p>

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Applied research on the participation of indigenous peoples in political and civic life</p> <p>Objective: To expand the studies on the actions of electoral organizations in selected countries or undertake new studies on the participation of indigenous peoples in political life and electoral processes</p>	<p>A. Production of specialized knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on the participation of Ecuador's indigenous peoples in political life extended through 2006 (it had previously covered up to 2005), with a gender perspective, on the following variables: a) indigenous electoral legislation and regulations; b) administrative and practical electoral models and mechanisms; c) use of legal resources and regulations and electoral models and mechanisms by indigenous peoples; and, d) performance of indigenous candidates in elections, with the inclusion of intercultural indigenous observation. • Technical mission to Mexico (17-20 April) for meetings with counterpart (CIESAS) and other institutions involved in the issue, to plan the work program for January-September 2007: activities, definition of terms of reference, selection of countries, identification of organizations to collaborate in the research, definition of the methodology to be used and other, related aspects. • Preparation and implementation of IIHR/CIESAS agreement for executing the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Preparation and presentation to IIHR/CAPEL of plan/model for observatory on the participation of indigenous peoples in political life, based on research carried out under the IIHR/CIESAS project 2005-2006 and 2007 (Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador); b) Revision and, if necessary, expansion of the two Training Modules implemented under the CIESAS/IIHR agreement (2006); and, c) Development of a proposal for a specialized issue of the Revista IIDH. <p>B. Training and information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision and preparation for publication of the final version of the book containing the applied research on the participation of indigenous peoples in political life in six countries of the region (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru). <p>C. Dissemination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the reporting period, the project continued to disseminate information about its activities and specialized information via <i>Diversidades</i>, on the IIHR website, which is updated continually. As of 30 June, 8222 items were available in the different subsections (<i>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</i>), plus an up-to-date directory of 405 organizations involved in promoting the human rights of the target populations. The specialized section was visited 90,225 times between 1 April and 30 June - an average of 991 times per day, with each visit lasting an average of 15:26 minutes (statistics compiled using WebTrends software). 	<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 amount of information available increased thanks to the research carried out and reported in 2006 and the systematic dissemination of project activities and specialized information via the <i>Diversidades</i> section of the IIHR website, as shown in the results section of this report, under component C. Dissemination.</p>

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Applied research on the extent to which the Afro-descendant population in Colombia and Panama is able to exercise its citizens' rights and participate in political life</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1) Action research on Panama's current inclusive electoral legislation; 2) a questionnaire prepared and 60 Afro-Panamanians surveyed - members of organizations that represent the interests of this population (between 15 April and 1 June); 3) workshop (29 June) to discuss and validate with 30 leaders of Afro-Panamanian organizations possible amendments to current electoral legislation, to determine the degree of interest that exists and the viability of such action. • Technical mission to Mexico (17-20 April) for meetings with counterpart (CIESAS) and other institutions involved in the issue, to plan the work program for January-September 2007. • Drafting and implementation of IIHR/CIESAS agreement to execute the following actions under the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Test the principal points of the system of indicators of progress regarding the legal protection of the Afro-descendant population's right to participate in political, as a result of the CIESAS/IIHR agreement implemented during 2006. This will be accomplished by applying the system in four countries selected previously by the IIHR (Colombia, Honduras, Panama and Uruguay). Output: document with matrixes of indicators incorporating the data from the four countries b) Analyze and systematize previous research by the IIHR in Colombia and Panama c) Conduct basic research (bibliographical and Internet resources) on Honduras and Uruguay and, if necessary, design and contract local data gathering actions (overseen by the IIHR) d) Process data for the system of indicators of progress <p>B. Training and information/dissemination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of final version and preparation for publication of book containing presentations made at the <i>Panel of experts to assess the situation regarding the political participation of the Afro-descendant population in Colombia</i>. • During the reporting period, project staff continued to disseminate information about project activities and specialized information via <i>Diversidades</i>, the specialized section of the IIHR website, the content of which is updated continuously (for statistics, see previous section). 	<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 Panama"</p> <p>The amount of information available increased thanks to the research carried out and reported in 2006 and the systematic dissemination of project activities and specialized information via the <i>Diversidades</i> section of the IIHR website, as shown in the results section of this report, B. Training and information/dissemination.</p>

PROJECT: PROMOTING A CULTURE OF INCLUSION

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES: JULY- SEPTEMBER 2007 - Last updated in June 2007

ACTIVITIES	COUNTRY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
Process of assessing the impact of equal opportunity legislation	Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama and Venezuela									
Process of research on the application of quota mechanisms	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Panama and Paraguay									
Work Plan - Indigenous Peoples Production of specialized knowledge	Guatemala, Ecuador, Mexico									
Work Plan - Indigenous Peoples Dissemination (<i>Diversidades</i> Specialized Section)	Regional									
Work Plan - Indigenous Peoples Training	Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Paraguay, Venezuela									
Work Plan - Afro-descendant Populations Production of specialized knowledge (continued from 2006)	Panama									
Work Plan - Afro-descendant Populations Production of specialized knowledge (indicators of progress)	Colombia, Honduras, Panama and Uruguay									
Work Plan - Afro-descendant Populations Training	Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela									
Work Plan – Afro-descendant Populations Dissemination	Regional									
Technical Assistance Mission	Mexico									
Technical Assistance Mission	Panama									

B. CONFLICT PREVENTION

1. PROJECT: CITIZEN SECURITY IN LATIN AMERICA: DEVELOPING A NATIONAL AND LOCAL APPROACH

1.1 GENERAL FRAMEWORK

Experience in Latin America has shown that crafting a citizen security policy and providing the corresponding legal framework is one of the most pressing challenges facing the countries. Hence, the **goals proposed for January-September 2007** are:

- a) To consolidate the process of security sector reform as part of the implementation of a public citizen security policy in the Dominican Republic
- b) To enhance the institutional capabilities for drafting and implementing democratic citizen security policies and for cooperation between the subregions of Latin America (Central America and MERCOSUR)

Between **January and June**, the activities focused on the second of these two goals, given the need to promote the definition of citizen security policies based on general guidelines agreed and validated at the regional level. The process began at the end of 2005 with the drafting of a text by expert Carlos Basombrío Iglesias (Peru), working closely with the IIHR Security and Human Rights Program. A Meeting of Experts took place 30-31 January 2006 to discuss and make contributions to the document. The following specialists provided input for the final draft: Isabel Albaladejo Escribano (IIHR); Santiago Escobar (Chile); Hugo Acero (Colombia); Carmen Rosa De León (Guatemala); Raúl Vergara Meneses (Chile); Fabio Xavier (Brazil); Fabián Salvioli (Guatemala); and Manuel de Jesús Pérez Sánchez (Dominican Republic). **After several months' work, the document - now entitled "Citizen Security in Latin America: A proposal prepared by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights" - was presented at the Regional Meeting on Citizen Security held 6-7 December 2006 in Santiago, Chile, at the headquarters of ECLAC. The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Member States and associate members of MERCOSUR, under the auspices of the Ministry of the Interior of Chile (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Venezuela, Paraguay, Chile, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, and Colombia). The IIHR hosted the Central American Meeting of High-level Citizen Security Officials at its headquarters from 19-20 March 2007. This second regional-level activity was sponsored by the Ministry of Justice of Costa Rica and attended by senior officials from the Member States and associate members of the Central American Integration System (SICA) - Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Belize, Panama and the Dominican Republic.**

The participants in the regional meetings described the proposal as the "first regional instrument to establish guidelines for public citizen security policies and human rights, synthesizing a regional consensus." The aim was to provide input regarding an issue that has become a priority on the agenda of the governments and one of the biggest concerns of citizens in the hemisphere. The **final version of the document was published in June 2007.**

The **technical assistance in the Dominican Republic** will be carried out between **July and September**, with the first mission scheduled for **23-29 July**.

1.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Support the formulation of democratic public citizen security policies at the regional level</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>To enhance the institutional capabilities for devising and implementing democratic public citizen security policies, and cooperation and consensus-building among the subregions of Latin America to prevent organized transnational crime</p>	<p>Regional Meeting of High-level Citizen Security Officials from Central America, held 19-20 March in San Jose, Costa Rica. This regional activity was sponsored by the Ministry of Justice of Costa Rica and attended by senior officials from the Member States and associate members of the SICA (Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Belize and Costa Rica). The participants included the Minister of Internal Affairs of Belize, the Deputy Minister of the Interior of Guatemala, attorney generals and their representatives, police commissioners and deputy commissioners, and directors of prison systems from the eight countries mentioned.</p> <p>The officials responsible for citizen security who took part in the Central American Meeting reached consensus on and validated the document “Citizen Security in Latin America: A proposal prepared by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights.”</p> <p>As a result of the MERCOSUR and Central American meetings, the project published the final version of the document “Citizen Security in Latin America: A proposal prepared by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights.” The publication was launched in June.</p> <p>Close coordination among the institutions involved in the issue at the regional level (ministries, judicial branches, attorney generals’ offices, prison systems, national police forces)</p>	<p>“Enhanced institutional capabilities for devising and implementing democratic citizen security policies”</p> <p>“A regional coordination mechanism established to tackle the problem of insecurity, based on comprehensive democratic strategies that guarantee respect for human rights”</p> <p>“Enhanced cooperation and consensus among the sub-regions of Latin America in a collective effort to combat violence and crime”</p> <p>The regional document prepared by the IHR and validated by the high-level officials from the MERCOSUR and Central American regions who took part in the regional meetings endorses the goal of achieving the aforementioned indicators.</p>

PROJECT: CITIZEN SECURITY IN LATIN AMERICA: DEVELOPING A NATIONAL AND LOCAL APPROACH

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR JULY - SEPTEMBER 2007 - Last updated in June 2007

ACTIVITIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
Regional Meeting of High-level Security Officials									
Technical missions to Dominican Republic									
Seminar Dominican Republic									
Publication and Distribution of "Manual on Public Citizen Security Policies"									

2. PROJECT: STRENGTHENING THE OMBUDSMAN IN LATIN AMERICA

2.1 GENERAL FRAMEWORK

The goal of this project is to make ombudsman's offices more accessible and independent, enhance their capabilities and increase their number in Latin America as a mechanism for protecting human rights and denouncing violations. Between October and December 2006 (pursuant to Cooperation Agreement LAG-A-00-02-00001-00 and the corresponding Work Plan for July-December 2006), project staff updated the Integrated Information and Communication System for **ombudsman offices in Latin America and the Caribbean** and planned the joint meeting of the **Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsman (CCPDH) and the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA)**.

With the execution of this component between **January and June 2007**, the project strengthened the capabilities of ombudsman offices in **Latin America and the Caribbean** through an integrated information and communication system.

The project also strengthened the ties between the members of the CCPDH and the CAROA. This will enable the two regional bodies to work together more closely, share experiences, carry out joint activities on topics of interest to the peoples they represent, and enrich and support each other's activities.

2.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Updating of the Integrated Information and Communication System (Ombudsnet)</p> <p>Objective: To consolidate and strengthen an information and communication system for ombudsman offices in Latin America and the Caribbean</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The full texts of all the publications of the Ombudsman and Human Rights Program were prepared for uploading to the Ombudsnet. The process of uploading them got under way. • Specialized webliographies were created on the Inter-American Human Rights System and on migrants, topics of interest to the ombudsman institutions. • The different subsections of the Ombudsnet (specialized section of the website) were updated. • News and information from different sources were systematized, studied and posted on the Web page. • The staff updated the complete directory containing information about all the ombudsman offices in the region. • With regard to the two discussion forums currently in operation, 31 bulletins were sent out to the English-speaking list of CAROA (Caribbean Ombudsman Association) and 58 bulletins to the Spanish-speaking Ombudsnet list. In both cases, this was an increase over the previous period. • The report on visitors to the Ombudsnet Web page (http://www.iidh.ed.cr/Comunidades/Ombudsnet) for January-June 2007, generated by the system used to obtain statistics and analyses of the IIHR's specialized sections, shows that there were 77,229 visits to this section (an average of 426 per day). 	<p>“Capabilities of ombudsman offices in Latin America and the Caribbean enhanced by means of an integrated information and communication system”</p> <p>Through the specialized section, the ombudsman institutions were afforded immediate access to the most important information and news in the area of human rights and closely related to their sphere of activity. The specialized section contains a wide variety of up-to-date information about each of the ombudsman institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean, doctrine, legislation and human rights jurisprudence. Ombudsman offices that visit the specialized section have access to the documentation they need to carry out their mandate and information about counterpart institutions.</p> <p>“More visitors to the different subsections and the services available in the specialized section”</p> <p>The number of visitors to the Ombudsnet shows that this specialized section has become an important source of information for ombudsman institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean.</p> <p>“Ombudsman institutions better equipped to respond quickly to crises, conflicts and internal disturbances”</p> <p>During this period, it was not necessary to activate the early warning system.</p>

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Meeting between the members of the Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsman (CCPDH) and the Caribbean Ombudsman Association (CAROA)</p> <p>Objective: To strengthen the ties between and work of the CCPDH and CAROA by enabling them to share their experiences and discuss common concerns</p>	<p>The first meeting of the members of the CCPDH and CAROA took place 29-31 January, in San Jose, Costa Rica.</p> <p>A total of 40 people took part, including the heads of the ombudsman offices of Central America and the Caribbean and at least one other official from each of them. The ombudsman offices of Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Bermuda, Barbados, Curaçao, Grand Cayman, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago were represented at the activity.</p> <p>The two associations set up a forum that will be known as the “Joint Forum of Members of the CCPDH and CAROA,” to increase cooperation among them by means of activities such as the sharing of experiences and the implementation of joint activities on topics of mutual interest. They will also use the Forum to enrich and provide mutual support for the execution of their respective activities.</p> <p>Initially, the organizations will be giving priority to the following areas of work: a) governance, b) the environment, c) education, d) health, e) the implementation of good practices by means of exchanges of officials, f) research and g) training in the mechanisms of the international human rights systems.</p>	<p>“Stronger ties between the CCPDH and CAROA” During the meeting, the participants discussed the process of developing closer ties between CAROA and the CCPDH, which began in 2004. The process was strengthened further with the creation of the “Joint Forum of Members of the CCPDH and CAROA” and decisions regarding the thematic areas on which their joint efforts will focus.</p> <p>“Greater capacity for coordination between the CCPDH and CAROA and horizontal cooperation between members of the CCPDH and CAROA” During the meeting, the associations agreed to set up a program for exchanges of officials, to enable them to familiarize themselves with the good practices of other institutions. Joint activities are to be carried out on topics of common interest, and the organizations also decided to enrich and provide mutual support for the implementation of their respective activities.</p> <p>“Stronger mandate for the defense of human rights in the countries that are members of the CCPDH and CAROA” The members of the CCPDH have an express mandate to promote and protect human rights in their respective countries. Most members of CAROA primarily serve as government watchdogs, overseeing the public administration. During the meeting, emphasis was placed on the need for the ombudsman to help strengthen the culture of human rights in their respective countries and the participants agreed to make this a priority issue.</p> <p>“More interaction between the regional networks and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights” Most of the Caribbean states do not play an active part in the Inter-American System (they have not ratified many of the treaties nor recognized the contentious jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court). At this meeting, after attending a public hearing at the IAHRCourt and studying the Inter-American System, the members of CAROA agreed to include human rights topics in their national agendas.</p>

3. PROJECT: RAPID RESPONSE SYSTEM

3.1 GENERAL FRAMEWORK

For over 25 years, the IIHR has implemented projects throughout the Americas with a variety of sectors, giving it a great deal of credibility and legitimacy. Combined with its technical expertise, this allows the Institute to offer direct, case-specific advisory services and assistance both to government agencies and civil society organizations, and to act as a mediator between them.

This modus operandi permits the Institute to respond rapidly to situations that require urgent action. In the two cases in which the IIHR has so far had cause to take action under this project (Guatemala, between September and December 2003, and Colombia, in August 2005), the results confirmed this, as explained in the respective quarterly reports.

According to the method proposed in the 2007 work plan, USAID or the IIHR will identify a country where a specific situation calls for an immediate technical response by the Institute.

3.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Given the nature of this project, during the reporting period (January-June 2007) no country was identified where action of the kind envisaged under this project was needed. When the IIHR or USAID identifies an appropriate situation and the two parties agree that technical action is needed, the IIHR will draft a work plan aimed at incorporating strategic state and civil actors and institutions, to achieve the objectives proposed in the plan.

C. DEMOCRATIZATION OF POLITICAL PROCESSES

1. PROJECT: STRENGTHENING ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS

1.1 GENERAL FRAMEWORK

Little work was done under the Strengthening Electoral Institutions component until **May**, because **USAID/Washington had still not approved the Annual Work Plan for 2007**. As a result, during the first four months of the year the work was limited to providing follow-up to the **Inter-American Electoral Network** and a visit to lay the groundwork for a mission of observers to the **15 April** referendum in Ecuador. The visit was coordinated with the **USAID** mission in **Ecuador**.

Four UNIORE newsletters were produced and a preparatory mission to **Ecuador** was carried out to assist the **Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Ecuador** in organizing the observation mission for the **15 April** referendum. The subsequent **horizontal cooperation mission** involved **20 observers**, **7** of whom were **women**, and **4 IHR/CAPEL** officials. This activity was not included in the original **2007 Annual Plan** because the referendum was only announced after the start of the year. The TSE expressly requested the **IHR/CAPEL's** collaboration in organizing a horizontal cooperation mission.

Following approval of the **2007 Annual Plan** in **May**, it was possible to hold the **21st Conference of the Association of Electoral Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (Tikal Protocol)**, the theme of which was "**Electoral Jurisprudence in the Americas**." It took place **25-26 June**, in **El Salvador**. Some 28 judges and officials took part, from the electoral bodies of **Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama and Saint Lucia**, plus **5 IHR/CAPEL** officials. It is worth noting the considerable number of women judges and officials who took part on this occasion (**8**), from **Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica and Panama**.

Under the applied research project, a **Meeting on electoral jurisprudence** - one of the key topics covered in the publications – was held **7-8 June** in **San Jose, Costa Rica**. The participants were judges and officials of the **Supreme Elections Tribunal of Costa Rica**, the **Federal Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Branch of Mexico** and the **Electoral Tribunal of Panama**.

1.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Inter-American Electoral Network</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>To continue administering the network of networks of electoral bodies that belong to the different associations and other members</p>	<p>The results of this activity can be seen in the changes made to CAPEL's Web page (Electoral Network mailing list: 591 people): www.iidh.ed.cr/capel</p> <p>These results are divided into:</p> <p>Intermediate results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updating of the electoral calendar - Updating of the Directory of Electoral Organizations - Updating of agreements adopted by the associations. <p>Follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuous dissemination of institutional news and news items from the SINE-Panama <p>Final results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updating of the data on nine electoral bodies (Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Ecuador, Canada, the United States, Costa Rica and Jamaica) - Uploading of agreements, 3 presentations, 5 reports, 8 papers and 32 photographs related to the 21st Conference of the Tikal Protocol - Uploading to the Web page of four UNIORE newsletters (December 2006-January 2007 - #66; February 2007 - #67; March 2007 - #68; and April-May 2007 - #69 regular issue, all both in English and Spanish versions) - Uploading to the Web page of the most recent publication: the book Proceedings of the 12th Inter-American Course on Elections and Democracy - Updating of the table of election results in Latin America - Uploading to the Education and Training section of 7 manuals and training documents from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela, as well as the electoral jurisprudence of Mexico. <p>At least 15 news items generated by the SINE, on electoral and political developments in Latin America, posted on the Web page each day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uploading of various IIHR/CAPEL materials in a folder, with officials having exclusive access, containing important documents for the department. 	<p>“Network of electoral organizations in the region expanded and strengthened”</p> <p>“More documentation and comparative experiences, 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 reporting period (January-June 2007), the project continued to update the data on several electoral organizations in the region. A total of 32 new members were added to the mailing list.</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>Spanish and English versions of four newsletters: the issue for December 2006-January 2007 - # 66; February 2007 - #67; March 2007 - #68; and April-May 2007 - #69 regular issue</p> <p>Distribution of hard copies of the newsletters and electronic files via the mailing lists of the Electoral Network and CAPEL's specialized section on the IIHR's Web page (Electoral Network mailing list: 591 people): www.iidh.ed.cr/capel and the SINE-Panama</p>	<p>“Electoral information disseminated more widely in the Americas”</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 the reporting period (January-June 2007), the UNIORE newsletters continued to be well received both by 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>

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Tikal Protocol</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>To foster dialogue among the electoral organizations of Central America and the Caribbean</p> <p>To update electoral officials in Central America and the Caribbean with respect to the activities of the Inter-American Electoral Network</p>	<p>The 21st Conference of the Association of Electoral Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (Tikal Protocol) was held 25-26 June in El Salvador. The theme of the event was “Electoral Jurisprudence in the Americas.” A total of 28 judges and officials (20 men and 8 women) attended the activity, from the electoral bodies of Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama and Saint Lucia, plus 5 IIHR/CAPEL officials. The only electoral body not represented was that of Puerto Rico, whose officials were unable to attend due to health problems. The main results of the conference were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -10 up-to-date assessments by Central American and Caribbean members of the Tikal Protocol, on the scope and current focus of electoral jurisprudence in the Americas (posted on CAPEL’s Web page: www.iidh.ed.cr/capel) - Agreements of the 21st Conference of the Tikal Protocol, posted on CAPEL’s Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/capel) - New officials of electoral bodies know how to use the Inter-American Network, with emphasis on the Tikal Protocol. The new Deputy Chairman of the Electoral Commission of Antigua and Barbuda, Nathaniel James, Costa Rican judge Zetty Bou and two judges from the Dominican Republic, Aura Celeste Fernández and Leyda Margarita Piña, took part in a conference of the Tikal Protocol for the first time. - Twenty-eight delegates from Central American and Caribbean electoral bodies learned about the work of the Executive Secretariat (IIHR/CAPEL) between September 2006 and May 2007, and the specialized doctrine produced by the region’s electoral bodies set forth in jurisdictional resolutions and other decisions or rulings of a general nature. 	<p>“Electoral organizations have more specialized technical knowledge about the topics discussed at the conference”</p> <p>“More and stronger partnerships of electoral organizations leading to joint actions on technical electoral matters”</p> <p>“The issues on the work program of the electoral bodies updated through the agreements adopted at the conference”</p> <p>“More active members of the Association”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the conference, the members learned about the progress that the region’s electoral bodies have made in regard to jurisprudence and technical issues related to areas such as political participation and inclusion, resolutions issued in parliamentary systems (English-speaking Caribbean region), the regulation and internal democratization of political parties, close-run electoral processes, and regulations on polls and the media. 2. The conference also strengthened the association’s commitment to building up a database of jurisprudence that the electoral bodies will be able to use as a tool for obtaining comparative information. 3. The conference adopted agreements to update its work program. The political participation of women and civil and electoral registries were two topics proposed as the focus of future activities. 4. The number of active members of the Network increased with the incorporation of four new members.

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
------------	---------	-------------------

Horizontal Cooperation Missions

Objective:

To share and transfer expertise and experiences among electoral bodies

A **horizontal cooperation mission** organized by the **IIHR/CAPEL** at the express request of the **Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Ecuador** observed the referendum held in that country on **15 April**. Twenty observers took part, from **Bolivia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay and Venezuela**, plus 4 **IIHR/CAPEL** officials.

The result of this horizontal cooperation mission was a report containing technical recommendations, the main points of which are as follows.

The mission:

1. Highlighted the work of the polling officers, who closed the polling places and counted the votes in an expeditious manner. Contributing to the success of their efforts was the fact that the same people have now performed this role in several elections. However, they were disgruntled because they received no food or assistance on election day and, in some cases, the polling places were located in unsuitable areas (in the sun or the open air). If different or inexperienced people take part in future processes, adequate, timely training should be a top priority. The mission recommends considering paying polling officers a per diem allowance, emolument or similar incentive in future elections. This could also reduce the number of polling officers who are designated but fail to take part.

2. Confirmed the continuity of efforts by the TSE to enable people with physical disabilities to vote and that the measures are being applied in the polling places, although the specific measures implemented were not always uniform or effective.

3. Suggested that the Tribunal undertake a review with a view to making certain improvements in future electoral processes. The review should focus on the location of polling places, the mechanisms for providing voters with information, the posting of signs in polling stations, the location of voting booths and the distance between them, the placing of screens to ensure the secrecy of the vote, and the placing of the ballot boxes in relation to where the polling officers are seated.

“Electoral legislation or practices modified as a result of the implementation of recommendations or lessons learned from the missions”

“The members of the Inter-American Electoral Network have more comparative knowledge of electoral legislation and practices”

The mission drew up a report containing technical recommendations regarding aspects that could be improved, such as training and financial incentives for polling officers, the information available to voters, the use of signs, the location of polling places, the secrecy of the vote, etc.

No electoral reforms were enacted but the missions continue to provide local officials with plenty of ideas for possible reforms and specific improvements to electoral practices.

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Applied Research</p> <p>Objectives: 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>During the reporting period (January-June 2007), the preparations were made for one of the four publications: the publication on Electoral Jurisprudence. The main preparatory activity was the Meeting on electoral jurisprudence, held 7-8 June in San Jose, Costa Rica. Seven judges and officials from the Supreme Elections Tribunal of Costa Rica (TSE), the Federal Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Branch of Mexico (TRIFE) and the Electoral Tribunal of Panama (TE) took part, plus four IIHR/CAPEL officials.</p> <p>The main results of this meeting were as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The participants decided to review the currentness and completeness of the twelve fields of the classification system used by the IIHR/CAPEL for its List of terms for the teaching of electoral subjects in Latin America. As a result, the participants defined 13 new fields into which electoral jurisprudence and administrative resolutions should be organized. 2. The TSE, the TRIFE and the TE agreed to divide the new 13 fields into sub-fields, so as to provide a model for the other electoral bodies to use. 3. Better understanding of the ways in which electoral jurisprudence and administrative resolutions are stored and made available on the Web pages of the TSE and the TRIFE. 4. The TRIFE offered to allow its databases on electoral jurisprudence and administrative resolutions to be used to store the jurisprudence of each country and permit comparative searches by country and by subject via the Tribunal's Web page, as a service to the Executive Secretariat (in the same way that the SINE operates via the TE). 5. It has yet to be decided whether the TRIFE will store the data indefinitely or the IIHR/CAPEL can make technical changes to its website to store the information. 	<p>“More comparative knowledge related to political rights and electoral processes”</p> <p>“Dissemination and exchange of up-to-date information to support the activities of the Inter-American Electoral Network”</p> <p>The meeting permitted the participants to share information about electoral jurisprudence and discuss the best way to classify it. Furthermore, as a result of the meeting the participants have a better understanding of how the TSE and the TRIFE store electoral jurisprudence and administrative resolutions on their websites. In the case of the TRIFE, the use of cutting-edge technologies makes it possible to consult its databases of electoral jurisprudence and conduct comparative searches by subject, date and region. The TRIFE is to facilitate the implementation of a regional database of the information provided by each electoral body.</p> <p>The results of this meeting were presented during the 21st Conference of the Association of Electoral Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (Tikal Protocol), held 25-26 June in El Salvador. The theme of the conference was Electoral Jurisprudence in the Americas.</p>

PROJECT: STRENGTHENING ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS
SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR JULY-DECEMBER 2007 (Last updated in June 2007)

ACTIVITIES	COUNTRY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
21 st Tikal Protocol	El Salvador						25-26						
13 th Quito Protocol (13-15 November)	Chile											13-15	
UNIORE newsletters	Costa Rica												
Electoral Network of the Americas	Costa Rica												
Horizontal Cooperation Missions (dates to be decided)	Bolivia												
Horizontal Cooperation Missions	Ecuador				15								
Horizontal Cooperation Missions	Ecuador									30			
Horizontal Cooperation Missions	Argentina										28		
Horizontal Cooperation Missions (dates to be decided)	Jamaica												
Horizontal Cooperation Missions (First round of voting)	Guatemala									9			
Exploratory missions (to be decided)	Paraguay												
Exploratory Missions (2) (dates to be decided)	Dominican Republic												
Exploratory Missions (2) (dates to be decided)	Mexico												
Exploratory Missions (dates to be decided)	Panama												
Applied Research	Cuadernos de CAPEL issues 51, 52, 53 and 54												



Activities that will be carried out with financing through 30 August



Activities that will be carried out with financing between 1 September and 31 December

2. PROJECT: EQUAL REPRESENTATION AND POLITICAL PARTY REFORM

2.1 GENERAL FRAMEWORK

Little work was done under the Equal Representation and Political Party Reform component until **May**, because **USAID/Washington had still not approved the Annual Work Plan for 2007**. The **Strategic Plan for Strengthening Political Parties in Latin America** was concluded and an official publication containing the results was produced in **March** (versions in both Spanish and English). The publication was promoted in the **UNIORE newsletter for March 2007**, via the **Electoral Network**, during the various activities of the **IIHR/CAPEL**, such as the **horizontal cooperation mission to Ecuador in April 2007** and the **21st Conference of the Association of Electoral Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (Tikal Protocol)**, which took place **25-26 June** in **El Salvador**.

Under the **Project to promote the transparency of political parties in Argentina**, a preparatory visit to Argentina was carried out in **May** to reestablish contacts and explore the possibilities of further work with the collaboration of two well-known Argentine civil society organizations that specialize in advocacy and social auditing in regard to political and electoral matters (**Poder Ciudadano** and **Unidos del Sud**).

2.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Project to promote the transparency of political parties in Argentina, in the run up to the 2007 elections</p> <p>Objective: To enhance the internal capabilities of the political parties so they can meet the standards of transparency established in Argentine legislation</p>	<p>The Director of CAPEL, José Thompson, and Program Officer Ricardo Valverde visited Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 17-19 May to reestablish contacts with the political parties and meet with the civil society organizations Poder Ciudadano and Unidos del Sud, which have a lot of experience in the field of advocacy and social auditing in regard to political and electoral matters.</p>	<p>“Strategic stakeholders agreed on the need to strengthen political parties”</p> <p>“The political parties are better equipped to ensure they comply with the aspects of transparency established in Argentine legislation”</p> <p>As the only activities carried out during the reporting period were of a preparatory nature, it is too soon to assess the impact of the project.</p>

PROJECT: EQUAL REPRESENTATION AND POLITICAL PARTY REFORM

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR JULY-DECEMBER 2007 - Last updated in June 2007

ACTIVITIES	COUNTRY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Project to Strengthen Political Parties in the Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic							■	■	■	■	■	
Project to promote the transparency of political parties in Argentina, in the run up to the 2007 elections	Argentina					■		■	■				■
Project to Strengthen Political Parties in Panama	Panama (date to be decided)												■

■ Activities that will be carried out with financing through 30 August

■ Activities that will be carried out with financing between 1 September and 31 December