

# OLACEFS – COMTEMA Progress Report

## April 2009 - February 2011



### BACKGROUND

COMTEMA, is the Working Group on Environmental Auditing of the OLACEFS (the Latin America and the Caribbean, Supreme Audit Institutions Organization), and was created in November 1998 at the VII General Assembly of OLACEFS. Its mission is to support the development of environmental audits among the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) members of OLACEFS, promoting environmental management control, and the strengthening and integration of these SAIs.

COMTEMA was coordinated by Brazil SAI since its creation until April 2009, when Argentina SAI was elected as President of the Commission.

At the moment, the Commission is formed by the following SAIs: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela.

The following information presents an abstract of the progress made between April 2009 and February 2011 in accordance to the Work Plan 2009-2011, as well as with the agreements reached during meetings and communications among members.

### REPORT (updated February 2011)

#### 2009

Starting on January: **survey of the training needs** of COMTEMA's members, by Peru SAI.

April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>: **VIII COMTEMA Meeting** in Argentina

Discussion and approval of the final Work Plan 2009-2011

Election of new authorities of COMTEMA: Dr. Oscar Lamberto, from Argentina's SAI is elected

May: Web Site is reviewed, by Colombia SAI

May: **request to OLACEFS Training Committee** (CCR) of the specific information to develop the training components required, by Peru SAI.

August – September: **consultations** among members were carried out and **contributions** were received for the draft **proposal of COMTEMA at the General Assembly of OLACEFS**, by Argentina SAI.

August 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>: **Seminar of preparation for the "Coordinated Audit on Environmental Management for the Protection and Conservation of Natural Resources in the Amazon Region"**, held in Cartagena, Colombia

August 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>: first planning meeting on COMTEMA **Coordinated Audit on Climate Change**, held in Brasilia, Brazil.

September 30<sup>th</sup>: visit of the Secretary of Steering Committee of the **Dominican Republic** Audit Court to the Chair of COMTEMA. Technical **assistance and cooperation** for that SAI were requested.

October 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>: **presentation of the Base Document** "Environment and Sustainable Development: Challenges facing **Climate Change and Energy Development** for Regional SAIs " for its discussion at XIX General Assembly of OLACEFS held in Asunción, Paraguay.

## 2010

January: **Colombia is selected** to host the VIII COMTEMA Ordinary Meeting

February: development of a new **Administration Protocol for the COMTEMA Web Site**, by Colombia SAI.

February: distribution of **training documents** of WGEA-INTOSAI.

March 4<sup>th</sup>: confection and **consultation on the new "Terms of Reference"** of the COMTEMA, by Colombia SAI.

March 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>: Seminar about **Observatories on Fiscal Control** for the Sustainability of the Guaraní Aquifer and the Amazon Basin held in Bogota, Colombia.

March 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>: 2nd meeting on "COMTEMA **Coordinated Audit on Climate Change**", held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

April 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>: **Workshop to assess progress of the "Coordinated Audit** on Environmental Management for the Protection and Conservation of Natural Resources in the **Amazon Region**", held in Quito, Ecuador

May: distribution of the new **Administration Protocol for the COMTEMA Web Site**, by Colombia SAI.

June 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>: **13<sup>th</sup> INTOSAI WGEA Meeting**, Guilin, Guangxi, China. Participation and **Progress Report** of the COMTEMA-OLACEFS.

July 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup>: **VIII COMTEMA Ordinary Meeting**, held in Bogota, Colombia.  
Agreement that the IX COMTEMA Ordinary Meeting will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, about April 2011

July onwards; **Translation of the INTOSAI WGEA Audit Guides:**

1. Environmental Audit
2. Environmental Accounting
3. Mines and Minerals
4. Responses to Climate Change

Still under translation:

Sustainable Energy Auditing

Pending:

Auditing Forest

September 27<sup>th</sup> **Honduras SAI resignation** for reasons of force majeure to its participation in the COMTEMA.

October: End of the National Reports of each SAI for the "COMTEMA Coordinated Audit on Climate Change".

November: Preparation of the consolidated multinational report for each chapter of the "COMTEMA Coordinated Audit on Climate Change", by each assigned SAI.

November: **Registration of the domain name [www.comtema.org](http://www.comtema.org)** (and its mirrors comtema.com and comtema.net) for the COMTEMA website, without affecting its operation or pages that follow as usual, being managed and hosted by the SAI of Colombia.

December: Start of the final report of the "COMTEMA Coordinated Audit on Climate Change", by the SAI of Brazil.

**2011** (some planned activities)

April 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>: **IX COMTEMA Ordinary Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina**

June: Presentation of **Final Reports** about the "**COMTEMA Coordinated Audit on Climate Change**" and the "**COMTEMA Coordinated Audit on the Amazon Region**"

November: **14<sup>th</sup> INTOSAI WGEA Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina**

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The main challenges surveyed are:

1. Disseminate and promote the **mission and objectives** of the Commission and consolidate the use of **Rules of Procedure** among the member SAIs.
2. Strengthen mechanisms of **communication and exchange of information** between member SAIs.
3. Continue to conduct **new coordinated audits**.
4. Strengthen **training** activities in member SAIs.
5. Promote the development of **methodological guidelines** for environmental audit covering the entire process (planning, implementation and communication of results) and **uniform evaluation criteria** for all OLACEFS SAIs
6. Strengthen the **links with the INTOSAI - WGEA**.
7. Get sources of **technical and financial assistance** for the operation of the Commission.

## **Presidency of COMTEMA - OLACEFS**

Auditoría General de la Nación  
ARGENTINA