



Organización de los Estados Americanos
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OAS Announces \$1.5 Million In-Kind Contribution to Cadastre Project

26 Octubre, 2010

The Organization of American States (OAS) announced today a contribution of \$1.5 million from the private sector to the project FONCIER HAITI, elaborated by ONACA (National Cadastre Office) and the OAS.

The in-kind contribution comes from Stewart Global Solutions, ESRI and Trimble Navigation, and will allow the government of Haiti to make use of software and hardware equipment through the FONCIER HAITI project in the short-term, as well as benefit from training and consulting. The contribution is in addition to the strategic cadastre and registry work the OAS has been conducting since June of this year in Haiti, which includes a coordinating cadastre team working closely with ONACA to make initial assessments and address the most pressing operational needs.

The Secretary General of the OAS, José Miguel Insulza, recalled the importance of cadastre modernization in Haiti. "Less than five percent of land is documented or registered, and for as long as there are only traditional customs the possibility of attracting foreign investment will not exist," he said. He added that the culmination of the project will impact the efforts of recovery of businesses and the economic development of the country, a task especially crucial after the devastating earthquake of January 12, which is why the initiative is a priority for the continental organization.

The Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, Albert Ramdin, highlighted that "the leadership of the Haitian government, as the owner of this project, must be our guiding principle." And in view of a necessary coordination of aid that the international community is providing in this task, Ambassador Ramdin described the role of the hemispheric Organization "as a platform for partnerships, one where we can all agree on how to face this challenge that will be a long-term project."

The project FONCIER HAITI, whose purpose is the modernization of the cadastre and land rights infrastructure, has the technical support of experts and institutions of recognized international prestige, such as Quebec's Office of Cadastre, the National School of Public Administration of Quebec (ENAP), GeoQuebec, Stewart Global Solutions and the Institute for Liberty and Democracy (ILD), and is expected to be implemented in two phases that will be carried out over a period of seven years.

The first phase will address the needs of the cadastre based on the process of reconstruction, will carry out an important effort to sensitize Haitian society, the legislative powers and political leaders, and will strengthen the institutional structure through personnel training.

During the second phase, a solid and sustained cadastre and registry infrastructure will be developed, modernizing the framework and generating presence in all provinces of the country. Participation of communities and respect for the rights of the most vulnerable groups constitute fundamental aspects of the project FONCIER HAITI.

Stewart Global Solutions, ESRI and Trimble Navigation have a renowned international leadership in different areas related to cadastre and property registry, and a long trajectory of collaboration with the OAS; since the launching of the project, these companies have dedicated important efforts of Corporate Social Responsibility to the FONCIER HAITI project.

For more information, please visit the OAS Website at www.oas.org.