

New start for forestry in Peru

A new National Forest and Wildlife Service begins operations

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At stake: Aerial view of Bajo Urubamba tropical forest in Atalaya province, Peru. Photo: F. Tueros/MINAGRI/DGFFS/DPFFS

Within the framework of the forest sector reform process that has been taking place in Peru for the last few years, the Peruvian Government approved, on 17 July 2013, the Organizational and Functional Regulations (*Reglamento de Organización y Funciones* – ROF) of the National Forest and Wildlife Service (*Servicio Nacional Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre* – SERFOR).

Even though SERFOR was established in July 2011, the approval of the ROF marks the actual birth of Peru's new National Forest and Wildlife Authority, whose main objective will be to lead the reform process promoted by the government for the sustainable utilization of the country's rich and extensive forest and wildlife heritage.

SERFOR is part of the new Peruvian forest institutional framework, which also includes the Supervisory Agency for Forest and Wildlife Resources (*Organismo de Supervisión de los Recursos Forestales y de Fauna Silvestre* – OSINFOR) as the agency responsible for supervising and monitoring the sustainable harvesting and conservation of forest and wildlife resources as well as the utilization of services from forest and other wild plant ecosystems.

In order to strengthen this institutional framework, the National System for Forest and Wildlife Management (SINAFOR) and the National Forest and Wildlife Commission (CONAFOR) have also been created. SINAFOR, which is attached to SERFOR, is an operational system made up of ministries and public agencies and institutions concerned with forest and wildlife management at the national, regional and local levels. CONAFOR has been established as SERFOR's high-level consultative agency to provide guidance regarding participation, consultation and information-sharing on the national forest and wildlife policy.

SERFOR's actions will be based on three pillars: i) inclusion and involvement through the active participation of stakeholders related to the national government, regional governments, local governments, indigenous

peoples and civil society at large; ii) productivity and competitiveness through clear services in support of legal forest activities and integrated forest harvesting (including timber, non-timber products and environmental services, among others), technology transfer and increased value added; and iii) sustainability through applied scientific information and promotion of forest plantations in the Coast, Highlands and Forest natural regions of the country.

SERFOR's organizational structure includes executive, consultative, monitoring and internal administration agencies, as well as four technical divisions with corresponding organizational units as described below:

1. General Directorate for Forest and Wildlife Information and Management
 - Information and Registry Directorate
 - Inventory and Valuation Directorate
 - Land Registry, Zoning and Planning Directorate
2. General Directorate for Forest and Wildlife Policy and Competitiveness
 - Policy and Regulation Directorate
 - Promotion and Competitiveness Directorate
 - Studies and Research Directorate
 - Capacity-Building Directorate
3. General Directorate for the Sustainable Management of the Forest and Wildlife Heritage
 - Sustainable Forest Management Directorate
 - Sustainable Wildlife Management Directorate
 - Forest and Wildlife Management Control Directorate
4. General Directorate for the Management of Forest and Wildlife Knowledge
 - Monitoring Directorate
 - Evaluation Directorate
 - Knowledge Management Directorate

To expedite the operationalization of SERFOR, the existing General Forest and Wildlife Directorate (DGFFS) will be merged into the structure of SERFOR. In accordance with the provisions of Supreme Decree No. 007-2013-MINAGRI that established SERFOR, this merging process should be completed within a maximum period of 60 days from the entry into force of the said Decree, unless otherwise stipulated through a Ministerial Resolution of MINAGRI with prior approval from the Public Management Secretariat of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

Finally, as part of the Government's General Policy, a National Forest and Wildlife Policy has also been approved through Supreme Decree No. 009-2013-MINAGRI of 13 August 2013. This national policy is a key instrument to guide forest and wildlife management in the country under the responsibility of SERFOR, and it was developed with the participation of public agencies, representatives of professional associations, the academic sector and various civil society stakeholders.