

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Receipt of Environmental Submission

**THREE PANAMANIAN CITIZENS PRESENTED AN ENVIRONMENTAL SUBMISSION BEFORE THE SECRETARIAT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT MATTERS OF THE UNITED STATES – PANAMA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT, ASSERTING A FAILURE TO EFFECTIVELY ENFORCE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA, INCLUDING WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXECUTIVE DECREE No. 40 OF JUNE 24, 1976, WHICH CREATED THE VOLCAN BARU NATIONAL PARK.**

Panama City, March 15, 2021. On Friday, March 12, 2021, citizens Ezequiel Miranda, Ángel Aguirre Sánchez and Ariel Rodríguez, on their own behalf, presented an Environmental Submission via email to the Secretariat for Submissions on Environmental Enforcement Matters (SEEM) of the United States – Panama Trade Promotion Agreement (US-Panama TPA), in which they assert that the Republic of Panama is failing to effectively implement its environmental legislation.

In the Submission, identified as No. **SALA-CA-PMA/001/2021** and titled “**Baru Volcano National Park and others**”, the submitters assert that the Government of the Republic of Panama has failed to comply with environmental legislation with regard to: Executive Decree No. 40 of June 24, 1976, which creates the Baru Volcano National Park; Resolution AG-0295-2004 of July 30, 2004, which approves the Management Plan; and Resolution No. AG-0904-2009, which re-establishes the validity of the Management Plan of the aforementioned Park. Specifically, the Submission alleges “logging activities, the advancing agricultural frontier, poor disposal of solid waste, intensive agricultural practices which endanger the environmental values of the protected area, uncontrolled tourist activities, or activities that are promoted on a massive scale without considering the load capacity of the site.” The submitters also assert that they have not received a substantive response from Panamanian authorities regarding the submitters’ request that these issues be addressed.

The SEEM is currently analyzing the Submission, in order to determine if it is compliant with the requirements established in Article 17.8.2 of Chapter 17 of the US-Panama TPA and thus whether the SEEM is able to continue with the respective procedure.

More information will soon be available on the Secretariat’s official website [www.sala-seem.org](http://www.sala-seem.org)