

PUBLIC NOTICE

Receipt of Environmental Submission

THREE PANAMANIAN CITIZENS PRESENTED AN ENVIRONMENTAL SUBMISSION BEFORE THE SECRETARIAT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT MATTERS, DESIGNATED TO RECEIVE SUCH SUBMISSIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 17.8 OF THE UNITED STATES – PANAMA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT, FOR THE ALLEGED FAILURE TO ENFORCE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA, WITH RESPECT TO THE PREPARATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE GULF OF MONTIJO WETLANDS PROTECTED AREA.

Panama City, May 20, 2019. On Thursday, May 16, 2019, citizens María Gabriella Dutary and Isaías Ramos, on their own behalf, and Tania Arosemena Bodero, representing the MarViva Foundation, presented an Environmental Submission via e-mail to the Secretariat for Environmental Enforcement Matters (SEEM) of the United States – Panama Trade Promotion Agreement (US-Panama TPA), in which they claim that the Republic of Panama is not effectively enforcing its environmental legislation.

In the Submission, identified as SALA-CA-PMA / 002/2019 "Gulf of Montijo Wetlands," the submitters assert that the Republic of Panama has failed to comply with the environmental legislation in the development and approval process of the Gulf of Montijo Wetlands Protected Area Management Plan. The environmental legislation identified by the submitters include Law 2 of 1995 which ratifies the Convention for Biological Diversity, Resolution AG-170-2006 approving the "Procedure for the management, preparation, application and approval of management plans for protected areas" and, rules for access to information and transparency in public management. SEEM is currently analyzing the Environmental Submission to determine compliance with the submission requirements established in Article 17.8.2 of Chapter 17 of the US-Panama TPA in order to continue with the corresponding procedures.

Additional information is available on the SEEM website:

www.sala-seem.org