



A PROUD AFFILIATE OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **PADF MAKES OAS PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM CARBON NEUTRAL**

**Panama City, Panama (May 31, 2007)**—Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) and Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), announced at the inaugural session of the Private Sector Forum of the Americas today that the Pan American Development Foundation has helped neutralize carbon emissions related to the Forum which is taking place just days before the 37<sup>th</sup> OAS General Assembly in this Central American country.

“As you know, flying is one of the major causes of global warming due to the carbon emitted. I am pleased to inform you that the OAS, through its affiliate the Pan American Development Foundation, has neutralized the carbon emissions associated with your travel to Panama, by purchasing carbon credits produced by a biomass energy project in Brazil. The project tackles deforestation, one of the most important ecological threats in our region by converting from the consumption of native wood to renewable biomass residues as an energy source for small ceramic producers in a remote region in Brazil. I wholeheartedly commend this initiative to you and I urge you in turn to adopt similar practices with your own corporate travel,” said Ambassador Ramdin.

PADF is the oldest and largest international NGO affiliated with the Organization of American States. The Foundation has a forty-five year track record of successfully empowering the least fortunate in Latin America through local civil society groups and other private and public sector mechanisms. Over the last year, the Foundation worked in 17 countries and helped improve the lives of over two million people.

The mission of the Foundation is to alleviate human suffering and poverty through sustainable development activity in Latin America and the Caribbean by creating opportunities for sustainable economic and social progress, strengthening capacities of individuals, communities and civil society, and preparing for and responding to natural disasters and other humanitarian crises. PADF does this through innovative development partnerships that reflect hemispheric priorities of the Organization of American States with international agencies, local governments, corporations, foundations, nongovernmental organizations, immigrant groups, and individuals committed to improving the lives of the least advantaged.

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