



## **Center for Human Rights and Environment**

9 de julio, 180 - 1B, Córdoba, 5000 Argentina, [Cedha@cedha.org.ar](mailto:Cedha@cedha.org.ar)  
54 (3541) 44-88-54 [www.cedha.org.ar](http://www.cedha.org.ar)

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2001**

[cedha@cedha.org.ar](mailto:cedha@cedha.org.ar)

*CEDHA wishes to especially thank CIEL and the Hewlett Foundation for their continued support*

## Table of Contents

I.	REVIEW OF INSTITUTIONAL/PROGRAM PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES	3
II.	GENERAL INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW OF 2001	4
III.	KEY CEDHA HR/ENV IMPACT INDICATORS FOR 2001	5
IV.	ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM	6
V.	SUSTAINABLE TRADE PROGRAM	11
VI.	RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PROGRAM	13
VII.	PRO-BONO SUPPORT	15
VIII.	BUDGET AND OPERATING EXPENSES.	15
IX.	FUNDING	16
X.	CONCLUSION AND FUTURE PROGRAM AND STRATEGY	17
	ANNEX: WEBSITE USE 2001	19

### Note

The following is an annual report for CEDHA detailing program purpose and objectives, local and international activities, review of ongoing and new programs, human and financial resources, budget information, website usage, and future strategies covering the period January 2001 – December 2001.

## **I. Review of Institutional/Program Purpose and Objectives**

The Center for Human Rights and Environment (CEDHA) is a non-profit organization promoting sustainable development through the promotion of the symbiotic relationship existing between the environment and people, and striving to build awareness of the importance of addressing human rights and environmental protection in all development processes. CEDHA is particularly concerned and focuses much of its program agenda on providing access to justice in cases of human rights violations resulting from environmental degradation.

CEDHA's overall goals are to develop and strengthen:

- **the awareness** of the linkages between the environment and human rights;
- **the capacity** of state, civil society and private sector actors, to work towards more environmentally and socially sustainable development.

CEDHA divides its activities into three programs, the Access to Justice Program, the Sustainable Trade Program and the Responsible Business Program.

### **Access to Justice**

CEDHA's Access to Justice Program's (AJP) overall goal is to provide access to justice in cases of environmental degradation leading to human rights violations.

### **Sustainable Trade**

CEDHA's Sustainable Trade Program strives to make trade regimes more environmentally and socially sustainable (particularly Mercosur, FTAA, WTO).

### **Responsible Business**

CEDHA's Responsible Business Program aims to catalyze and enable the adoption of socially and environmentally responsible business practices.

A more detailed description of the three program's objectives follows below in Sections IV-VI.

## **II. General Institutional Overview of 2001**

The year 2001 was a very active year for CEDHA with much programmatic growth and impact. In addition to launching two new programs, the Sustainable Trade and Responsible Business Programs, with numerous activities to report in each, CEDHA has increased the local and international exposure of its Access to Justice Program and expanded its broader institutional reach and impact at a local and international level.

As a consequence of CEDHA's actions and initiatives, sometimes as principle leader and others as collaborator with other governmental and/or non-governmental groups, we've seen international jurisprudence set on Human Rights and Environment (HR/ENV), international institutions move to incorporate HR/ENV issues into their agendas, and international doctrines make reference to HR/ENV where before they had not. CEDHA is also contributing to setting international norms focusing on HR/ENV.

On the local front, CEDHA has participated in multiple campaigns and legal defense of local critical HR/ENV cases, particularly with respect to human rights consequences of mega public works and/or private projects greatly affecting the environment. CEDHA has been an important local information and advisory resource for environmental degradation victims and for local NGOs in the promotion and defense of issues where human rights and the environment were at stake. We have also become an important link for trade focused civil society actors to human rights and environment events unfolding at the WTO. We've launched the first ever (as far as we know) Latin American forum on corporate social responsibility (CSR), and have unified civil local society working on CSR

Also on the local front, CEDHA inaugurated a local office in October of 2001. The office houses two new staff attorneys of the Access to Justice Program carrying forth most of the local AJP agenda, as well two volunteer staff of the Responsible Business Program, assisting in the launch of local activities for the RBP.

CEDHA continues to attract a great number of interested individuals from all over the world, willing to contribute their time to CEDHA's initiatives and programs.

### III. Key CEDHA HR/ENV Impact Indicators for 2001

Of particular importance during 2001 and as evidence that the linkages between human rights and environment are gaining recognition in part due to CEDHA's efforts, we can highlight:

- the largely CEDHA-led advancement of HR/ENV as a development focus at a hemispheric level (at the OAS forum) resulting in the passage of Resolution 1819 mandating a study of the relationship between HR/ENV;
- the subsequent decision of the OAS to hold an experts meeting on HR/ENV to discuss the OAS's role in promoting this linkage (with CEDHA as co-organizer/advisor to the meeting); this meeting will receive the results/recommendations of a CEDHA/CIEL/American University Experts meeting on HR/ENV held to feed into the OAS meeting.
- the favorable decision of the Inter-American Court on Human Rights in the HR/ENV focused case of the *Awás Tingni v. Nicaragua* following an *amicus brief* arguing this important linkage prepared by CEDHA's Access to Justice Program Director;
- CEDHA's lobby for, and the inclusion of, HR/ENV commitments by states in the Declaration of the World Conference Against Racism (both in the Regional Preparatory Conference and in the World Conference; this was the first time *ever* that UN international racism doctrines included an HR/ENV focus
- CEDHA's active participation in the preparation of, and invitation by the United Nations to help defend its Draft UN Human Rights Guidelines for Corporations (before the UN Sub Commission on Human Rights); this document is intended to be first time ever binding legislation for companies on HR/ENV
- CEDHA's active participation in the development and presentation of, and invitation to participate in a select group of 12 experts worldwide revising the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)'s Human Rights and Environmental Indicators for Business
- CEDHA's invitation to join as one of 25 HR/ENV experts gathered in a joint UNEP/High Commission for Human Rights meeting to study ways to institutionalize HR/ENV in the UN system; and the subsequent favorable reaction of states to such proposals made by the experts group.

In each of these key developments for HR/ENV worldwide, CEDHA has played a key role as author, promoter, or collaborator of the initiatives.

The report will now turn to the particular CEDHA programs to review activities and advancements for year 2001.

#### IV. Access to Justice Program

CEDHA's Access to Justice Program's (AJP) provides access to justice in cases of environmental degradation with related human rights abuses.

Specifically the AJP works at a hemispheric level on:

**legislation building**, working to introduce and improve international, regional and local legislation to protect against environmental degradation and related human rights abuses;

**jurisprudence setting**, promoting the links between human rights and the environment in international and local jurisprudence;

**capacity building**, training legal actors, including judges and attorneys, NGO leaders, and other civil society leaders on the use of local and international law in the defense of the environment and related human rights;

**law enforcement**, promoting local and international environmental and human rights law enforcement;

**environment and human rights promotion**, building government and civil society awareness on links between the environment and human rights; and,

**environment and human rights protection**, working to strengthen international and local legal framework on the overlaps between environment and human rights.

#### Overview of 2001 Activities

The AJP advanced significantly on several fronts during the year 2001, not only meeting anticipated program objectives, but also launching a new AJP local program in Argentina, taking on new local program legal staff, conducting local training on human rights and environmental legal advocacy, participating in local environmental and human rights legal casework, serving the community as a human rights and environment information and directory source, while increasing external budgetary support for AJP activities.

#### *International Program*

Especially important in 2001 for the AJP has been the advocacy work through in the Inter-American System through the submission of two precedent setting amicus briefs that helped sway, in two separate instances, the Commission and the Court on Human Rights to take decisions in favor of the protection of the environment and related human rights.

The AJP has also been especially successful in moving forth the Inter-American Hemisphere's (through the OAS body) and the United Nation's HR/ENV agendas focusing on increased institutional development of the HR/ENV linkage.

Finally, CEDHA's AJP can highlight continued free legal advisory services offered to NGOs of different parts of the hemisphere on how to build their HR/ENV cases before national and international courts. This assistance has also been extended to indigenous communities throughout the hemisphere.

#### *Local Program*

The new local AJP program provides free legal representation, free legal advisory services, and access to information for interested parties. The local advocacy work of the AJP focuses on illustrative cases which can help promote change in case practice and legislation, while expanding the scope of environmental and human rights protection.

In the brief time since the opening of the local office, AJP program staff regularly receives local and international complaints on environmental and human rights cases (an average of 8-10 calls daily), to which responses are made either through written or oral format. Some cases are farmed out to appropriate governmental institutions, or non-governmental groups, while others are addressed directly by CEDHA staff. CEDHA is developing a rapid response mechanism and reference guide in collaboration with other qualified groups to direct the daily inquiries.

We should mention that the Center for International Environmental Law continues to be a crucial supporter and partner of CEDHA's AJP.

#### **2001 AJP activities include:**

##### *International*

- the largely CEDHA-led advancement of human rights and environment as a development focus at a hemispheric level (at the OAS forum) resulting in the passage of Resolution 1819 (sponsored by the government of Costa Rica) mandating a hemispheric study of the relationship between HR/ENV;
- CEDHA is designing and will host (in collaboration with CIEL and American University) an experts meeting on promoting HR/ENV in the hemisphere, the results of which will feed into the OAS implementation of Resolution 1819; CEDHA has been invited to advise the OAS on this process and will help the OAS co-organize an experts meeting this year to move this initiative forth;
- Presentation of an amicus brief submitted to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission for a case involving public works intrusion in to the Wichi Indigenous community lands; the amicus brief in collaboration with the case defense by CELS of Argentina, resulted in Commission effective pressure on the Argentine government to negotiate with the Wichi Community.
- Production of Draft HR/ENV legislation for the Inter-American Hemisphere now used as reference document for UN and OAS experts meetings on HR/ENV promotion (available at: [www.cedha.org.ar](http://www.cedha.org.ar))
- Preparation of study on the status of HR/ENV in the Americas to be used at HR/ENV experts meeting to be held both at American University and OAS

- CEDHA participated as panelist/trainer in an ANPED (Northern Alliance for Sustainability) civil society training session on global HR/ENV advocacy. This workshop, held in Europe was primarily focused on training Eastern and Western European civil society groups on HR/ENV issues. A civil society declaration on HR/ENV drafted at this meeting was subsequently presented to the UNEP/High Commission on Human Rights, HR/ENV experts meeting.
- Environmental Racism and Discrimination Initiative. CEDHA led a successful effort to draft and insert wording on Environmental Discrimination at the Latin American Regional preparatory conference Against Racism, Xenophobia, Intolerance and Discrimination (WCAR). This inclusion was the first time reference to environmental discrimination appeared on UN documents leading up to the WCAR, and was taken up by the UN as a model for the Global WCAR held in Durban, South Africa in 2001. Paper and declaration available: <http://www.cedha.org.ar>
- CEDHA was instrumental in the advocacy for inclusion of Environmental Justice language of the government and civil society declaration of the World Conference Against Racism, Xenophobia, Intolerance and Discrimination (WCAR) in Durban, South Africa.
- CEDHA translated *The Right's Way to Development* into Spanish, a two volume book published by the Human Rights Council of Australia, focusing on the use of a human rights framework for designing development assistance.
- United Nations Human Rights Guidelines for Companies. CEDHA collaborated advising and drafting the guidelines and was invited by the UN to defend the guidelines before the Human Rights Sub-Commission.
- Compilation of jurisprudence in Latin American courts where international environmental law and human rights law has been used; this compilation was used by the UNEP/High Commission on Human Rights, HR/ENV experts meeting as background materials.
- Masters Course on Linking Human Rights and Environment. In collaboration with the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) and the American University, CEDHA's Access to Justice Program Director, Romina Picolotti, designed and co-taught the course for the second time in June 2001 with CIEL's President Durwood Zaelke. Materials available: <http://www.cedha.org.ar/course.htm>
- Environmental Advocacy in the Inter-American Human Rights System (Manual). Completed in 2000, CEDHA is preparing an updated and a Spanish version of this manual for environmentalists to advocate in the Inter-American Human Rights System. Available at: [www.cedha.org.ar](http://www.cedha.org.ar)
- Linking Human Rights and Environment (Arizona Press 2003). CEDHA is editor of a forthcoming publication bringing together works of worldwide experts on the areas of overlap between human rights and environment.
- Drafting of chapter on HR/ENV in new addition of *International Environmental Law and Policy* (Foundation Press 2002).
- CEDHA is closely participating in preparatory meetings of the World Conference on Sustainable Development (WSSD) to promote the inclusion of HR/ENV as a formal issue on the WSSD Agenda, as well as the inclusion and

treatment of Environmental Justice language and action plan coming out of the Johannesburg Action Plan of the WSSD process.

- CEDHA is founding member of the Latin American Center for Environmental Law and Human Rights established in June 2001 in San Jose, Costa Rica, to advance knowledge and promote action to more effectively address issues and problems relating to the human rights effects of environmental and natural resource destruction and degradation in Latin America. The Center promotes research, academic and professional exchange, provides a forum for discussion and advancement of topics and issues, and by advancing awareness and the state of knowledge on the interrelation between environmental and human rights issues.

#### *Local*

- The AJP is working with a coalition of NGOs on the violations of environment and human rights related to the construction of the Yacyretá megadam along the Paraguayan and Argentine border. Activities of this initiative include the joint preparation of a report called " No more damage in Yacyretá" as well the filing of a complaint before the national ombudsman to stop the rising of the water level of the dam. CEDHA was invited to participate as expert by the World Bank VP to inform the Bank of the current status of social and environmental impacts of the megadam.
- The AJP is the legal representative of a coalition of Argentine NGOs that oppose the construction of a new mega dam called Corpus Christi, which would threaten the upper Paraná River, causing grave environmental, social and economic impacts, with subsequent violations of human rights. Among the affected people are the indigenous community of the Mbyá-Guaraní. The right to life, among others would be at risk by the propagation of sicknesses caused by the alteration of the river, including, esquistosomiasis and malaria (Case filings available at: [www.cedha.org.ar](http://www.cedha.org.ar))
- *Workshop on Access to Justice on cases of Environmental Degradation and Human Rights Abuses.* CEDHA co-hosted, with the collaboration of FARN and Poder Ciudadano, a local workshop (May 2001) for legal and non-legal civil society groups on local and international legal tools available to defend against human rights in local cases involving environmental degradation.
- *Hearing Wichis vs. Argentina.* Following the presentation of the Amicus Brief in the Wichi vs. Argentina case arguing links between environmental degradation caused by a transnational road project, and subsequent human rights violations of the Wichi and other indigenous communities, CEDHA presented its findings at a hearing of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Commission, in an unusual move, pressed the Argentine government to halt works and move towards a resolution with the Wichi community.
- Report Preparation on HR/ENV and the Argentine Mining Sector (in progress)
- Report Preparation on HR/ENV and the Argentine Fisheries Sector (in progress)

- CEDHA encouraged the creation of, and provided guidance on, program objective and design for a new local Human Rights organization based in northern Argentina (in Tucumán Province) called ANDHES.
- CEDHA AJP staff are participating in preparatory work to review the Argentine government's report to the upcoming World Conference on Sustainable Development. The AJP is a key player in Argentina's civil society producing a shadow report to the government's report to the WSSD.

## **V. Sustainable Trade Program**

CEDHA's Sustainable Trade Program (STP) strives to make trade regimes more environmentally and socially sustainable.

The STP is one of CEDHA's new programmatic foci. Specifically, in the STP:

1. CEDHA strives to deepen the understanding of the effects of trade on the environment and on human rights, with a particular focus on Mercosur, FTAA, and the WTO.
2. CEDHA aims to strengthen local civil society capacity and knowledge with respect to trade, environment and human rights, fostering increased civil society inter-communication and collaboration, strategy building on sustainable trade advocacy, and on participation and access to regional trade negotiations.
3. CEDHA works to improve and facilitate access to justice in cases involving environmental degradation and/or human rights abuses caused by international trade.

### **Overview of 2001 Activities**

CEDHA's STP advances on several fronts during 2001.

This new CEDHA program, although not specifically financed, was largely assisted by volunteer contributions from various temporary and permanent staff throughout the year, locally and from abroad. The STP has received periodic external financial support to attend a variety of advocacy activities. Three individuals joined the STP in Buenos Aires early in the year (including one intern from abroad) to launch some preliminary local advocacy, and a study on the social and environmental impacts of Genetically Modified Organisms technology-led trade.

### **2001 STP Activities included:**

- CEDHA became a member of the Zapallar Group, a Latin American forum advocating for the inclusion of environmental concerns in regional trade agreements.
- The STP co-organized a civil society discussion and meetings on local advocacy to address the newly adopted Environmental Accord of the MERCOSUR.
- CEDHA's also worked closely with WWF in mutually beneficial process of researching and learning on the development of environmental and social impact assessments methods in trade.

- Initiated a study of the impacts of genetically modified soybean in Argentina, done in parallel to a similar WWF study in Brazil on GM Soybean.
- The STP attended the Quebec meeting of Presidents on FTAA (April 2001) to advocate for greater civil society access to the FTAA deliberation/negotiation processes.
- Participated in WWF Workshop in Quebec to debate on Sustainability Assessment methodologies (April 2001)
- Attended several meetings and maintains permanent communication with Argentine government and civil society on Mercosur and FTAA.
- Workshop participant in Switzerland on human rights advocacy in the WTO (July 2001)
- The culminating activity for the year was participation in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Meeting in Doha Qatar, at which CEDHA advocated alongside a small group of civil society groups (of which CEDHA was the *only* locally Latin-American NGO) allowed access to the Ministerial meeting, for the inclusion of human rights and environmental content in what has been historically a nearly impenetrable trade forum for civil society concerns. CEDHA was particularly focused on the incorporation and treatment of human rights (especially as pertinent to worker rights); the treatment of health rights in patenting procedures, and the insistence on stricter environmental and social assessment procedures in trade. Given the limitations and strong government resistance to concede terrain in these areas, the Ministerial *did* result in a greatly improved framework for human health rights.

## **VI. Responsible Business Program**

CEDHA continued its activities on fostering socially and environmentally responsible business behavior (Corporate Social Responsibility, or CSR). What had been until this year, select international activities (primarily research-oriented) on the legal responsibilities of business to comply with human rights and environment protection, has been expanded into a local program focused on CSR promotion in Latin America, and specifically in Argentina. In the short time since its launch the Responsible Business Program (RBP) has gathered and mobilized local civil society groups and created several local and regional discussion platforms and collaborative opportunities to promote CSR locally and in the region.

### **Program Goal:**

The Responsible Business Program (RBP) aims to catalyze and enable the adoption of socially and environmentally responsible business practices, locally and internationally.

The RBP focuses on leveraging the local impact of corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives through international networking and collaboration with CSR leaders. The program is developing local business tools through local and international participatory processes, engaging business and civil society in a process of learning about sustainability and CSR and about managing institutional change.

The RBP program was especially assisted by a numerous interested volunteers and largely through partnership with a local University. Nearly 10 local and foreign-based individuals volunteered their time to the RBP over the last 12 months. Current volunteers are assisting CEDHA's develop local activities of the RBP, including the completion of the RBP Framework, mission objectives, strategies, and expected outcomes. They have also assisted in development of the RBP web site, on fundraising activities and have contributed significantly to strategic planning of the RBP.

### **2001 RBP Activities Include:**

- CEDHA participated in the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) development of human rights indicators for business. This process involved the contribution of nearly 150 CSR experts worldwide to revise GRI's 2000 Guideline Indicators. CEDHA has subsequently been invited to form part of a 12-member Revisions Working Group team to finalize the GRI 2002 Sustainability Reporting Guidelines for business.
- CEDHA's active participation in the preparation of, and invitation by the United Nations to CEDHA to help defend its Draft UN Human Rights

Guidelines for Corporations (before the UN Sub Commission on Human Rights)

- Attended several local seminars to learn more about the current state of the infant stage of Corporate Social Responsibility in Argentina and to spread awareness of the RBP; in such events, the RBP was able to network with other interested civil society and business groups, establish valuable local contacts, and share ideas with other civil society actors and businesses for future work on CSR in Argentina.
- Among the first activities of the local RBP program, CEDHA, in partnership with GEOS, a local CSR-focused NGO (in Córdoba), called a meeting in Rosario Argentina, inviting the few civil society groups projecting CSR work, to set the stage for the first ever Argentine Civil Society Coalition on CSR. The coalition officially launched in January of 2002.
- CEDHA launched a unique CSR discussion forum via internet (CSR e-Group) open to Spanish-speaking individuals and organizations interested in CSR.
- Participant in the first Argentine meeting of the NGO Task Group on ISO 14000. IRAM, Argentina's standardization institute. The NGO Task Group is ISO's effort to address the need for civil society participation in the environmental management standardization process, and will contribute to the standards and their significance to communities.
- Collaboration in a study by the International Council on Human Rights Policy on Human Rights Accountability of Private Business; available: [www.cedha.org.ar/docs/doc22.htm](http://www.cedha.org.ar/docs/doc22.htm)
- Participation by invitation in a Wilton Park Conferences workshop on CSR and Human Rights, held in April in Montreux, Switzerland.
- Establishment of a partnership with the Catholic University of Córdoba, working on CSR issues with local business.

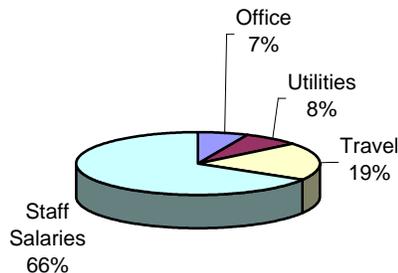
## VII. Pro-Bono Support

CEDHA receives a substantial amount of volunteer time offered to its various programmatic activities. CEDHA's AJP currently has 4 volunteers to work on a variety of legal advocacy projects. The STP has 2 volunteers worldwide (New York and Buenos Aires) working on its various STP activities, including a former Executive Director of a well know local NGO who is now assisting the STP launch its new program. The RPB received nearly 8 interns over the past 12 months, 6 local university interns (Catholic University of Córdoba) working on tool development, and two additional US interns at mid year to work on local program design, website design and local program activity launch. Two additional interns are expected to join CEDHA's AJP in the near future.

## VIII. Budget and Operating Expenses.

Approximate 2001 Expenses: US\$133,451  
Approximate 2001 Income: US\$125,240

The 2001 CEDHA budget comprises 66% for staff and consultant salaries, 19% for travel (local and international), and 15% for general office expenses/utilities.



## **IX. Funding**

Funding in 2001 came from:

The Hewlett Foundation  
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)  
American University  
DFID (UK)  
Eco America  
Human Rights Council of Australia  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)  
International Council on Human Rights Policy  
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)  
MMSD  
Northern Alliance for Sustainable Development (ANPED)  
The Ford Foundation  
The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)  
United Nations (WCAR, WSSD)  
United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP)  
United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS)  
Wilton Park Conferences  
World Wildlife Foundation (WWF)

CEDHA's principle funder is the Hewlett Foundation accounting for approximately 80% of program funds. CEDHA is currently on its second-year grant from the Hewlett Foundation.

### **Fund-Raising Activities**

In addition to its principal institutional support from the Hewlett Foundation, CEDHA has been able to successfully finance nearly 20% of its expenses from additional sources, mainly covering travel expenses to participate in international events. With two new programs in launching, CEDHA has had an active fund raising drive this semester, with several outstanding financing applications for all three of its programs. Assuming CEDHA is able to finance each of the three programs, with independent funding, the Hewlett grant is projected as general support financing for supervision and management of general operations.

### **Current Financial Crisis in Argentina and Effects on CEDHA**

In early December of 2001, Argentina entered into default on its foreign debt payments. An escalating social crisis in addition to financial constraints led to the government freezing bank accounts. In the aftermath of protests to these

measures, as well as due to mounting general discontent over the past several years to present hardships faced by a large portion of the population, the elected President resigned in mid December, and has been succeeded since by 4 interim Presidents in less than 30 days. The President now in office is due to govern until 2003, at which time there will be new elections. The volatile social, political and economic crisis that has come from this chain of events places great strain on the population, on the economy and on the political arena.

This ongoing crisis lived today in Argentina has had significant effects on CEDHA and its day to day activities, principally due to the freezing of funds in early December 2001. While this measure still allowed the organization to cover its expenditures *vía* electronic means (credit cards, debit cards, wire transfers, checks, etc.), more recently new measures have been decreed completely freezing over 70% of CEDHA's remaining funds for the remainder of the 2002 calendar year. This means that CEDHA can no longer cover basic expenses such as staff salaries, office expenses or in-house financed travel or other activities. Some travel and international work can continue since in many cases such work is financed by the inviting institution, and financing is conducted entirely outside of the Argentine financial system. Nevertheless, CEDHA is greatly inhibited by the current financial situation in Argentina.

We have and continue to explore ways within the current regulations of the banking system to free up our funds. However, if in the immediate future this situation is not corrected, we may need to take extraordinary (and hopefully temporary) measures to greatly curtail our activities until the freeze is lifted, or until other funds become available.

## **X. Conclusion and Future Program and Strategy**

CEDHA is pleased to conclude at the end of its second year in existence, that it is meeting and exceeding its intended goals. The large and diverse demand for CEDHA's services drove CEDHA to reassess its institutional design and launch two new programs, the Sustainable Trade and Responsible Business programs, while substantially expanding Access to Justice Program activities to the local arena. These new programs, in addition to new local activities are already showing strong signs of extending CEDHAs impact into new arenas and issues.

One of the more significant highlights of this last calendar year for CEDHA was the recent passage of the CEDHA-led Resolution 1819 on Human Rights and Environment at the OAS General Assembly. The resolution has helped CEDHA launch a hemispheric initiative on this overlap, an excellent opportunity to educate state actors on the linkages between human rights and environment. The parallel efforts to promote HR/ENV in the United Nations system, has also been an important working towards similar objectives. The UN invitation to

CEDHA, to join as expert-advisor in this process has also opened numerous advocacy reach possibilities for CEDHA. These initiatives and results, along with the many other CEDHA activities on promoting HR/ENV, clearly demonstrate that the links between human rights and environment are gaining recognition at a political and international level, and the likely institutionalization of human rights and environment due to these processes becomes a major step towards increased protection and promotion of human rights and environmental protection, two of CEDHA's key foci. CEDHA's involvement in these processes has been key to their advancement.

CEDHA has also launched significant local activities following a cautious and reflective period to determine local needs. The workshop held in May 2001 on Citizen Instruments to Defend the Environment (in collaboration with FARN and Poder Ciudadano) was very well received with strong demand for follow-up training. CEDHA has responded by increasing its assistance to local NGO groups and victims of HR/ENV violations. CEDHA now regularly receives up to a dozen daily consultations on human rights and environmental concerns. We have been a catalyst in the creation of new civil society groups, focusing on human rights and environmental protection and promotion, especially in Argentina's northern provinces, which are the traditionally marginalized, and more needy of assistance on such issues. Local RBP activities have mobilized local civil society, and created unique spaces for exchange and collaboration between what were once alienated groups on an issue (CSR) that is still in infant stages in Argentina and in Latin America more generally. Finally the STP is addressing hitherto ignored environmental and human rights concerns resulting from trade and has provided particular key input on processes taking place in the WTO, that have great implications for the future of regional trade agreements and the future FTAA.

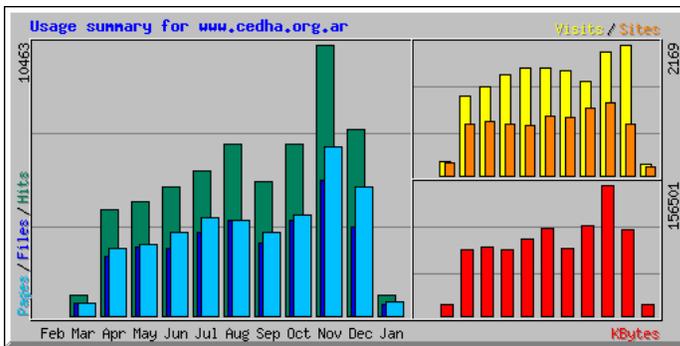
The results of CEDHA's activities and initiatives that we see today indicate that we are progressing along a line of continual growth, reach, and impact towards promoting the links between human rights and the environment.

*CEDHA wishes to especially thank the many volunteers, individuals, and organizations which contribute their valuable time and energy and collaborate with our objectives. We would like to especially recognize the support of the Hewlett Foundation and the Center for International Environmental Law for their continued trust, support, and encouragement.*

## ANNEX: Website Use 2001

CEDHA's website is a fundamental tool for disseminating work, information and offering actors access to information. Since its inception at the onset of the CEDHA project, we've seen it grow tremendously in scope and reach. While the first year had remarkable growth in terms of user access, we find that after two and a half years in existence, the sight continues to attract an ever-increasing number of users. Below are access statistics which give an idea of user access over the past 12 months.

Of particular note we draw attention to both daily averages of number of hits and and Kb of data downloaded from the site, which in both cases over the last year has more than or nearly doubled.



Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
<a href="#">Jan 2002</a>	196	110	136	47	145	13624	189	546	441	786
<a href="#">Dec 2001</a>	232	110	161	69	846	103780	2169	4996	3431	7205
<a href="#">Nov 2001</a>	348	174	216	68	1203	156501	2047	6501	5225	10463
<a href="#">Oct 2001</a>	214	118	126	50	1113	107263	1551	3907	3687	6643
<a href="#">Sep 2001</a>	172	94	107	58	969	80599	1748	3224	2832	5162
<a href="#">Aug 2001</a>	214	118	119	57	986	105098	1781	3710	3669	6645
<a href="#">Jul 2001</a>	179	103	122	57	822	91597	1780	3811	3223	5567
<a href="#">Jun 2001</a>	164	87	106	55	862	79023	1674	3208	2622	4949
<a href="#">May 2001</a>	141	85	89	47	901	81966	1472	2780	2656	4383
<a href="#">Apr 2001</a>	136	76	86	43	856	79381	1312	2603	2304	4085
<a href="#">Mar 2001</a>	136	83	78	37	200	13444	227	469	503	819
<b>Totals</b>						<b>912276</b>	<b>15950</b>	<b>35755</b>	<b>30593</b>	<b>56707</b>