

#### **Article 12.12: National Contact Point**

Each Party shall designate an official within the appropriate agency or ministry to serve as its National Contact Point and inform each other of this designation.

#### **Article 12.13: Public Information and Accountability**

1. An interested person residing in or established in the territory of either Party may submit a written question to either Party through its National Contact Point, indicating that the question is being submitted pursuant to this Article regarding a Party's obligations under this Chapter.
2. The Party receiving the question shall acknowledge the question in writing, forward the question to the appropriate authority and provide a response in a timely manner.
3. If an interested person submits a question to a Party that relates to the obligations of the other Party, the Party that receives the question shall, in a timely manner, provide to the other Party a copy of the question and its response referring the question to the other Party.
4. Each Party shall, in a timely manner, make publicly available all of the questions it receives and its responses to those questions.

#### **Article 12.14: Party-to-Party Information Exchange**

A Party may notify the other Party of, and provide to that Party, any credible information regarding a possible violation of, or failure to effectively enforce its environmental laws. This information shall be specific and sufficient to allow the other Party to inquire into the matter. The notified Party shall take appropriate steps to make inquiries, in accordance with its law, and to respond to the other Party.

#### **Article 12.15: Cooperative Activities**

1. The Parties recognize that cooperation is an effective way to achieve the objectives and fulfill the obligations of this Chapter. Accordingly, and subject to the availability of resources, the Parties may develop programs of cooperative activities based on their respective priorities.
2. Each Party may involve the public, interested stakeholders and any other entity that the Party deems appropriate in activities undertaken pursuant to this Article.
3. The Parties shall strive to strengthen their cooperation on environmental issues in other bilateral, regional and multilateral forums in which they participate.