

## Legal Aspects of the Exportation of SACs from South America

The highlands of the Andean Region are the natural habitat of SACs, and almost 100 per cent of the *alpacas*, *llamas*, *guanacos*, and *vicunas* inhabit this region. Peru and Bolivia have common laws concerning the export of lamoids. Since the last century, both countries have declared lamoids a national treasure, and exportation of live animals has been forbidden.

During Spanish rule in South America, especially in the Andean countries (1532 - 1821), the four species of SAC were exported to Spain and other European-allied countries. But enemy countries smuggled in some specimens and, from that time, many countries have had these animals.

Nevertheless, Chile, which has a very small lamoid population, started exporting *llamas* to the USA in 1980. Later on, the exportation of animals increased enormously (including the *alpaca*, a species almost

unknown outside South America and frequently confused with the *llama*. Most of the animals were exported to the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Israel, and Ecuador. The New Zealanders are re-exporting *alpacas* and *llamas* to Australia and many European countries.

In 1989, Bolivia lifted the prohibition on exporting live lamoids and started to export a limited number to the USA and Ecuador. Finally, on August 1st, 1991, Peru passed the Decree-Law No.653 for Promotion and Investment in the Agrarian Sector (*Decreto Legislativo No.653, de Promocion de Inversiones en el Sector Agrario*), allowing the exportation of domestic lamoids (*alpacas* and *llamas*). However, the export of *llamas* of the *Chaku* or Woolly breed, *alpacas* of the *Suri* breed, and coloured *alpacas* of the *Huacaya* breed is forbidden temporally and until these lamoid breeds increase their population.

A list of south American institutions engaged in SAC research and transfer of technology is provided in Annex 1.