Belize, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominica, Ghana, Fiji, Kenya, Guyana, Honduras, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Suriname and Uganda

Inputs to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) in preparation for the second part of the first session of the ADP to be held in Doha, Qatar from 26 November to 7 December 2012

25 November 2012

In a message dated 24 September 2012, the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) invited Parties to provide additional inputs on how best to advance the work of the ADP in Doha and beyond, including views on the aims and outputs of Doha on both workstreams, how the work in Doha on both workstreams should be organized, what work should be undertaken in 2013, and what steps would have to be taken in Doha to prepare adequately for that work. In addition, the Co-Chairs welcomed views from Parties on topics or questions that could be used to focus the substantive discussions in Doha or in future sessions, building upon the roundtable discussions in Bangkok, and further quantified information on potential options to contribute to bridging the ambition gap that is being address by the ADP in its workstream 2.

For this purpose the Coalition for Rainforest Nations considered issues related to the above and prepared this submission of views.

How to organize the work in Doha

The format used in the first session of the work of the ADP, as well as in the informal session held in Bangkok, should be maintained. Parties would benefit from the continuation of the open and transparent dialogue on workstreams 1 and 2.

In addition, a Contact Group should be established by the ADP as soon as possible for Parties to agree and adopt in Doha a clear and ambitious action plan for the work of the ADP, with the indication of a specific and detailed programme of work up to 2015.

Workstream 1: Vision for the ADP

As identified by decision 1/CP.17 the protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties, should be adopted at the latest by 2015.

REDD+ activities identified in paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16 (the Cancun Agreements) should be fully covered by the new agreement. The REDD+ section should build on the work done under the ADP to assess and quantify the contribution of REDD+ to global greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

A REDD+ mechanism should therefore play an essential role in the new agreement and should be fully supported with adequate, additional and predictable finance coming from a wide variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including alternative sources such as market-based mechanisms. A REDD+ Committee should be established under the Convention with the view to assist developing country Parties in receiving financial and technical support and coordinate all existing REDD+ finance related initiatives under the Convention, including a REDD+ window to be created under the Green Climate Fund.

Workstream 2: REDD Plus and the enhancement of mitigation ambition

According to the UNEP report Bridging the Emissions Gap, the forestry sector can help to bridge the emissions gap on a range of 1.3 to 4.2 GtCO₂e.

REDD+ is a reality in many rainforest nations and some countries have already clearly quantified the impact of REDD+ and its contribution to the global reduction of GHG emissions. Other countries are positioned to follow as they are now identifying the great potential of REDD+ in their countries.

A Workshop on quantifying the contribution of REDD+ to global reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to be held in conjunction with one of the intersessional meetings in 2013 should provide clarity on the contribution of REDD+ to bridge the ambition gap.

REDD+ offers an immediate cost effective opportunity to close the significant gap noted in decision 1/CP.17 between the aggregate effect of Parties' mitigation pledges in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways consistent with having a likely chance of holding the increase in global average temperature well below 2C above pre-industrial levels.

We believe the process to close the emissions gap should be founded on the

following three steps:

- 1) Conclusion of the work of the AWG-LCA in Doha with the immediate implementation of the mitigation actions identified in the Bali Action Plan, including REDD+, and provided that agreement is reached at COP18 on the establishment of a REDD+ mechanism for financing of results based actions.
- 2) Mid-session re-evaluation (2015/short term), where pilot mitigation actions are recognized by the UNFCCC and their impact on global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is quantified
- 3) Entry into force of the legally binding instrument identified by the ADP post 2020 (long term)

What work should be undertaken in 2013

Two intersessional meetings should be held in 2013 with the view to best advance the work of the ADP.

A Workshop on quantifying the contribution of REDD+ to global reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions should be held in conjunction with one of the intersessional meetings.

Prior to COP19, the secretariat should prepare a technical paper summarizing information on quantifying the impact of REDD+ to the global reduction of GHG emissions.

What steps are necessary in Doha to prepare adequately for that work

Parties should agree on a clear and ambitious action plan and timetable for the ADP up to 2015, which should include REDD+ implementation as primary element. Such an action plan should aim at enhancing mitigation ambition by identifying options for a range of actions that can close the ambition gap with a view to ensuring the highest possible mitigation efforts by all Parties. Furthermore, monitoring the transparency of actions and support, as part of the scope of the ADP, should be clearly included in the action plan.

In order to allow for REDD+ to contribute to close the emissions gap, and given that REDD+ offers a concrete cost-effective solution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adequate and sustainable financial support should be provided to rainforest nations for the implementation of REDD+ actions, both in public and private form.

International cooperative initiatives on REDD+ failed to provide the needed effective

disbursement for REDD+ phases 1 and 2. Therefore, cooperation should be fostered and those intermediate initiatives improved until an agreement on finance under the LCA is reached so that the Green Climate Fund may contribute to the scaling-up of REDD+ actions and finance. Finally, the long term agreement concluded under the ADP should explicitly provide for a mechanism that will allow REDD Plus to play its full potential in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions to agreed levels.