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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

**Thirtieth session**

**Bonn, 1–10 June 2009**

**Item 5 of the provisional agenda**

**Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action**

## **Issues relating to indigenous people and local communities for the development and application of methodologies**

### **Submissions from Parties**

1. At its twenty-ninth session, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice invited Parties to submit, if appropriate, to the secretariat, by 15 February 2009, their views on issues relating to indigenous people and local communities for the development and application of methodologies (FCCC/SBSTA/2008/13, para. 45).
2. The secretariat has received five such submissions. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, these submissions are attached and reproduced\* in the languages in which they were received and without formal editing.

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\* These submissions have been electronically imported in order to make them available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the texts as submitted.

**FCCC/SBSTA/2009/MISC.1**

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\* This submission is supported by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia.

PAPER NO. 1: CZECH REPUBLIC ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY  
AND ITS MEMBER STATES

**SUBMISSION BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC ON BEHALF OF THE  
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

**This submission is supported by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia**

Prague,

**Subject: Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries:  
approaches to stimulate action (SBSTA)  
Views on issues relating to indigenous people and local communities for  
the development and application of methodologies**

Multi-stakeholder processes, including involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples, are essential for any REDD approach to be effective. The EU notes that a number of international multilateral and bilateral agreements, instruments and processes are relevant to engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples. These include the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; the Aarhus Convention<sup>1</sup>, the International Covenant on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights; the Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests of the United Nations Forum on Forests; Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreements<sup>2</sup>; and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its relevant guidelines.

The EU believes that the effective implementation of the provisions on REDD in a future climate agreement will depend on the involvement and cooperation of local communities and indigenous peoples and that results based assessment will itself help incentivise effective engagement. The EU believes that this submission is useful as part of a process to share information on the positive and effective engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples and that sharing experiences on what is effective is an essential complement to legal commitments, and should be an on-going process.

The EU notes the importance of safeguard policies, such as those used by the World Bank, in the context of procedures to ensure that the REDD process respects the dignity, the human rights, the economy and the culture of indigenous peoples.

Based on experiences with forest (carbon) monitoring projects, initiated by EU Member States<sup>3</sup>, involving local communities and indigenous peoples in developing countries, the EU thinks that:

- Locally measured data can help countries improve their data quality, reduce uncertainty, fill critical gaps, such as in the case of degradation across all carbon pools, and move up a tier in reporting;
- Local monitoring is helpful to identify the causes and drivers of deforestation and forest degradation;

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/index.htm> for more information.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/flegt.htm> for more information.

<sup>3</sup> Experiences with such projects can be shared via the UNFCCC REDD web platform.

- Local communities should be involved in national systems to monitor the status of forest carbon stocks consistent with internationally agreed guidance, and could reduce the costs of monitoring;
- Locally measured data should supplement remotely sensed data to provide robust estimates of deforestation and forest degradation;
- Information, awareness raising and capacity building and transparency are the key elements to promote effective participation of local communities into REDD action and monitoring;
- Assessment by stakeholder consultation of the effects of REDD policies on local communities and indigenous peoples is a useful tool for assessing the effectiveness of actions;
- Technologies such as Internet, global positioning system (GPS) devices and mapping software can facilitate the participation of local communities and indigenous peoples in the application of methodologies, in particular mapping.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

**Submission by Ecuador**

(Attending conclusions of SBSTA 39)

This document has been developed in attention to *conclusion 11* of SBSTA 29, agenda item 5 (Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action). This conclusion calls parties to submit, if appropriate, “their views on issues relating to indigenous people and local communities for the development and application of methodologies” in the context of *decision 2/COP13*.

The development and implementation of methodologies should consider:

1. ***Indigenous land rights***. Parties should take action within an inbound process for ensuring that the legal property rights over the land of indigenous communities is not harmed by a REDD scheme.
2. ***Indigenous land titling***. Prior to the implementation of REDD activities, parties should ensure that the legal rights over the land of indigenous people have been granted, in full compliance with the constitutional and legal framework of each country.
3. ***Prior consultation principle***. In recognition of the strong relation of indigenous people with native forest in developing countries, any REDD activity should incorporate prior consultation mechanisms oriented towards indigenous and local communities.
4. ***Benefit sharing***. A REDD mechanism must ensure an adequate framework for channeling down a clear, transparent, and fare distribution of benefits obtained.
5. ***REDD mechanism design and implementation***: Any REDD mechanism should be develop in full compliance with the constitutional and legal framework of each country.

Ecuador, with support of the international community, is looking forward to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through the implementation of the Socio Bosque Program, an incentive-based initiative that will guarantee the involvement of indigenous people and local communities in the conservation of native forest.

PAPER NO. 3: GUATEMALA

Ciudad de Guatemala, 13 de febrero de 2009.

De la manera más atenta nos dirigimos a usted, para hacerle llegar nuestra posición en relación a los compromisos adquiridos en la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático, particularmente en la adopción de los programas de mitigación y adaptación sobre la base de la Propuesta de Submission que el Estado Parte, Guatemala, enviará a la Secretaría de la Convención.

En ese sentido, los Pueblos Indígenas en Guatemala hemos considerado los siguientes puntos que deberían incluirse en la Propuesta de Submission:

***Considerando***

Que las políticas que se están impulsando sobre adaptación y mitigación, la generación de monocultivos, producción de biocombustibles, el pago por servicios ambientales o secuestro de carbono, reducción de emisiones derivadas por la deforestación y degradación (REDD), y la creación de áreas protegidas, han sido planteados como soluciones a los efectos del Cambio Climático, sin embargo tenemos preocupación de que afecten el ejercicio de los derechos de los pueblos indígenas principalmente los de orden colectivo y atenten contra la existencia de los Pueblos.

***Proponemos***

Que los programas y proyectos relacionados al cambio climático en los temas de mitigación y adaptación deben ser:

- Pleno respeto a los derechos colectivos de los pueblos Indígenas.
- Consulta efectiva para obtener el consentimiento libre, previo e informado, ante cualquier asunto que afecte a los pueblos indígenas directamente e indirectamente.
- Estar sujetos a los lineamientos de la Declaración de Naciones Unidas para los Derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas y al convenio 169 de la OIT, así como otros instrumentos internacionales relevantes tanto en el ámbito nacional como en las esferas internacionales.
- Coordinar con las agencias y organismos especializados de Naciones Unidas como la UNESCO, FAO, UNICEF, GEF, FPCI, PNUD y otros que se consideren relevantes con el propósito de implementar acciones directas y articuladas sobre cambio climático y Pueblos Indígenas.
- Deben responder a las necesidades, realidades y prioridades de los pueblos indígenas al desarrollo o buen vivir.
- La implementación de las políticas del CMNUCC debe estar sujeta a la Declaración Universal de los Derechos de los pueblos Indígenas.
- Flexibilizar y ampliar los mecanismos financieros para que los Pueblos Indígenas tengamos acceso a los fondos de mitigación y adaptación, creación de capacidades, transferencia de tecnologías y otros.
- Reconocer y apoyar los programas y estrategias propias de los pueblos indígenas dirigidas a la mitigación y adaptación al cambio climático.

### **Propuestas que deben implementarse a Nivel Nacional**

Las políticas internacionales de reducción de la pobreza no contemplan resolver las causas estructurales que ocasionan las condiciones de pobreza, por lo tanto es necesario:

- Formular planes y programas que permitan la construcción, reconstrucción y transformación del país de forma integral y desde la visión de los Pueblos Indígenas.
- Las medidas estatales en la lucha contra la pobreza se han caracterizado por la ausencia del dialogo, análisis y discusión por parte de quienes sufren los efectos de la pobreza.
- Asegurar la participación plena y efectiva de los Pueblos Indígenas en los distintos niveles y mecanismos que se adopten frente a los programas de mitigación y adaptación.
- Reconocer los derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas, principalmente los derechos a las tierras, territorios y recursos, de igual manera el reconocimiento y protección de conocimiento tradicional y los saberes indígenas, la propiedad intelectual y la libre determinación.

En el mediano plazo, adoptar políticas y legislación para:

- Promover la Política sobre Biodiversidad y Pueblos Indígenas
- Revisar las políticas sobre Áreas Protegidas en territorios indígenas
- Revisar las políticas para las concesiones mineras, petroleras, mega proyectos en territorios Indígenas.
- Revisar el enfoque e impactos que la Adaptación, Mitigación, REDD y otros programas causaran a los Pueblos Indígenas
- En el marco de la construcción de la Estrategia Nacional sobre Cambio Climático crear las condiciones para que exista una participación plena y efectiva de los Pueblos Indígenas a todos los niveles.
- Que exista participación de Pueblos Indígena en el Consejo Nacional sobre Cambio Climático

Que la Estrategia Nacional de Cambio Climático contemple:

- La construcción de una línea programática sobre Pueblos Indígenas
- Fortalecer las formas propias de organización indígenas
- Instar un Grupo de Trabajo ADHOC sobre Pueblos Indígenas
- Formular criterios culturales y sociales para medir impactos
- Realizar una línea base sobre la situación de los Pueblos Indígenas ante los fenómenos naturales, para alcanzar mayor resiliencia

## **Propuestas para la Participación Internacional**

El Estado de Guatemala debe ser consecuente y apoyar las propuestas de los Pueblos Indígenas a nivel Internacional

- Participación plena y efectiva en el proceso de discusión sobre la Convención Marco de Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático, Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica y Áreas Protegidas, entre otras.
- Establecimiento de un grupo de expertos indígenas sobre cambio climático y conocimientos tradicionales dentro del CMNUCC.
- Apoyar los Mecanismos propios que los Pueblos Indígenas que están participantes ante el CMNUCC.

A la espera de contar con su valiosa comunicación en relación a la anterior propuesta, nos despedimos de usted con muestras de consideración y estima.

Atentamente Organizaciones Firmantes:

Sotz'il  
CNP-Tierra  
Asociación Aktenamit  
Centro Maya Saqb'e  
Área indígena de CALAS  
Fundación Rigoberta Menchu Tum  
Embajada de los Pueblos Indígenas  
La Conferencia Nacional Oxlajuj Ajpop  
Centro Pluricultural para la Democracia CPD  
Grupo Promotor Pueblos Indígenas y Conservación  
Tob'nel Tinamit-Centro para la Defensa Legal Indígena  
Redes sobre Desarrollo Endógeno CONPAS-Guatemala  
Alianza Comunitaria de la Cuenca Binacional del Río Usumacinta  
Consejo de Observancia Por los Derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas



PAPER NO. 4: PANAMA

**Submission by Panama**

*The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) in its Twenty-ninth session “invited Parties and accredited observers to submit, if appropriate, to the secretariat, their views on issues relating to indigenous people and local communities for the development and application of methodologies” (FCCC/SBSTA/2008/L.23).*

Panama, in accordance of the Annex to conclusion (FCCC/SBSTA/2008/L.23), has initiated a program of information on REDD for Indigenous Peoples. . It is necessary to clarify that in order to understand REDD, indigenous communities must understand the issues of climate change in general

Several workshops were done with this perspective and took place during the period of 2008 and several ones are programmed for 2009 in their territories. The first workshop for this year was realized January 22-23 in the capital and was attended by 154 participants, in their vast majority indigenous. All the Traditional Authorities of Panama, except for the Nassau King were present, the later send a message that for health reasons he was unable to attend. This workshop stimulated Panama Traditional Authorities, Autoridades originarios de los Pueblos Indigenas de Panama (AOPIP), to engage in a process of capacity building at the community level. Engagement of the community is essential for the Traditional Authorities to determine their position on REDD. The present submission therefore represents the position of Panama informed by discussions with the Traditional Authorities. It does not represent the position of the later who still need time to emit an opinion on REDD.

Panama further recognizes the important role of indigenous peoples and local communities in the conservation of the forest. Twenty two percent of Panama’s territory is indigenous lands. In such context, involving indigenous peoples and local communities in the development of baselines, to understand the dynamics of land use change and be better able to predict forest changes, will be greatly beneficial. They are those that will bear the risk of changing their practices and who understand the necessary incentives to allow them doing so.

In Panama, we developed a methodology in which the villagers are those who measure the carbon. They were trained to do so and learned, for example, to use GIS. The advantage of having members of local communities and indigenous peoples taking part in the monitoring is that it increases their sense of ownership, their understanding of the impact of land use change thus enhancing the possibility of success of REDD.

There are extensive scientific literature pointing out successful examples of integrating indigenous peoples and local communities in conservation programs. Some of these models could serve to engage them in REDD monitoring in countries that wish to do so.

Therefore Panama wants to share its point of view:

- 1- Any REDD strategies, plans, methodology or activities should respect the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Rights.
- 2- Any REDD strategies, plans, methodology or activities carried out in Indigenous Territories should obtain their previous informed consent and respect and build on traditional activities.

- 3- To promote real and effective partnership or co-management of REDD activities in Indigenous Territories, effective capacity-building plans for the Indigenous Traditional Authorities must be implemented as an integral part of REDD strategies and plans. Furthermore Traditional Authorities should take part in the implementation of REDD activities taking place in their territories.
- 4- Indigenous peoples should be efficiently engaged in REDD monitoring and in the measurement of carbon stocks.
- 5- Transparent mechanisms to share benefits from REDD with indigenous peoples and local forest communities involved should be developed and implemented.

[Translation as submitted]

**\*\*\* Panama decides to submit a Spanish version of this submission, due most of the Indigenous Peoples representatives do not read English**

Submission por Panamá

El Órgano Subsidiario de Asesoramiento Científico y Tecnológico, en su sesión veintinueve, “invitó a las Partes y a los observadores acreditados a presentar a la secretaría, sus opiniones sobre las cuestiones que en relación con las poblaciones indígenas y las comunidades locales debían considerarse en la preparación y la aplicación de las metodologías” (FCCC/SBSTA/2008/L.23).

Panamá de acuerdo al Anexo de la Conclusión (FCCC/SBSTA/2008/L.23), ha iniciado un programa de divulgación sobre REDD para Pueblos Indígenas. Es necesario aclarar que a fin de entender REDD, las comunidades indígenas deben entender los problemas de cambio climático en general.

Varios talleres se realizaron con esta perspectiva y se llevaron a cabo durante el período de 2008 y varios más están programadas para 2009 dentro de sus territorios. El primer taller de este año se realizó el 22 y 23 de enero, en la capital del país y con la asistencia de 154 participantes, en su gran mayoría indígenas. Todas las autoridades tradicionales de Panamá, con excepción del Rey Nasso, quien luego se excusó, ya que por razones de salud no pudo asistir. Este taller estimuló a las Autoridades Originarias de los Pueblos Indígenas de Panamá (AOPIP), para comprometerse en un proceso de creación de capacidad a nivel de la comunidad. El compromiso de la comunidad es esencial para las Autoridades Tradicionales, a fin de determinar su posición frente a REDD. El presente documento, por lo tanto, representa la posición de Panamá informada a las Autoridades Tradicionales. Ésta no representa la posición de ésta última, que aún necesitan tiempo para emitir una opinión sobre REDD.

Panamá reconoce el papel importante de los pueblos indígenas y las comunidades locales en la conservación del bosque. Veinte por ciento del territorio de Panamá son tierras indígenas. En tal contexto la inclusión de los pueblos indígenas y comunidades locales en el desarrollo de líneas base, para entender la dinámica del cambio de uso de suelo y estar mejor capacitados para predecir cambios en el bosque, será enormemente beneficioso. Ellos son los que tomarán el riesgo que implica el cambio de sus prácticas y quienes entienden los incentivos necesarios por permitirles esto.

En Panamá, hemos desarrollado una metodología en donde los aldeanos son los que miden el carbón. Ellos fueron entrenados para hacer esto y aprendieron por ejemplo el uso de Instrumentos de Posicionamiento Global. La ventaja de tener miembros de las comunidades locales y pueblos indígenas tomando parte en el monitoreo es que esto incrementa su sentido de propiedad, su entendimiento de los impactos del cambio de uso de suelo, incrementando las posibilidades de éxito de REDD.

Existe extensa literatura que describen ejemplos exitosos de la integración de los pueblos indígenas y comunidades locales en diferentes programas de conservación. Algunos de estos

modelos pueden servir para comprometer a los pueblos indígenas y locales en el monitoreo de REDD en países que lo deseen así.

Por lo tanto, Panamá quiere compartir su punto de vista:

1. Cualquier estrategia, plan, metodología o actividades REDD, deben respetar la Declaración de las Naciones Unidas sobre Derechos Indígenas.
2. Cualquier estrategia, plan, metodología o actividades REDD llevadas a cabo dentro de territorios Indígenas debe obtener el consentimiento previo informado, y respetar las actividades tradicionales.
3. Para promover una sociedad real y efectiva o co-manejo de las actividades de REDD en territorios indígenas, debe ser implementada como una parte integral de las estrategias y planes de REDD. Así, las Autoridades Tradicionales deben tomar parte en la implementación de las actividades de REDD que se llevan dentro de sus territorios.
4. Los pueblos indígenas deben estar efectivamente comprometidos dentro del monitoreo REDD y en la medición de las reservas de carbón.
5. Mecanismo transparente de repartición de beneficios con Pueblos Indígenas y comunidades locales involucrado en acciones de REDD deben desarrollarse e implementarse.

PAPER NO. 5: PANAMA AND COSTA RICA

**Submission by Panama and Costa Rica**

- Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action (SBSTA)
  - Views on issues relating to indigenous peoples and local communities for the development and application of methodologies

The SBSTA invited Parties and accredited observers to submit, if appropriate, to the secretariat, by 15 February 2009, their views on issues relating to indigenous peoples and local communities for the development and application of methodologies. (See FCCC/SBSTA/2008/L.23, paragraph 11).

We believe that indigenous peoples and local communities' rights, visions and experiences should be taken into account in the discussions of any topic regarding REDD. Furthermore, there should be enough flexibility in the discussion to allow for the consideration of parties' circumstances and legislation regarding consultation processes and property rights of these communities.

Specifically, we consider that any REDD mechanism should include the following guidance:

- 1- REDD activities carried out in indigenous peoples and/or local communities' territories should obtain, if appropriate, previous informed consent according to parties' national circumstances and regulatory frameworks.
- 2- The implementation of REDD activities, plans and strategies should previously include capacity building for the indigenous peoples and local communities involved, taking into account traditional activities and knowledge, when appropriate.
- 3- Indigenous peoples and local communities can be efficiently engaged in REDD monitoring and in the measurement of carbon stocks. The advantage of having local and indigenous peoples taking part in the monitoring process is that it increases their sense of ownership and their understanding of the impact of land use change, thus enhancing the possibility of success of REDD activities.
- 4- Co-benefits such as biodiversity protection and conservation and other ecosystem services, as well as cultural integrity should be taken into account and promoted when designing alternative production activities to be carried out in indigenous peoples and local communities' territories.
- 5- In cases where national scale is chosen, transparent, efficient, equitable and fair distribution mechanisms of REDD derived benefits should be developed. This kind of mechanisms should be able to demonstrate the ways in which the indigenous peoples and local communities will benefit in response to their contribution to REDD activities.
- 6- The development of organizations, umbrella organizations and networks to assist indigenous peoples and local communities to get organized, design and implement REDD activities; and to give advice on their legal and financial negotiations, could be supported and encouraged.
- 7- Indigenous peoples and local communities' knowledge and experiences should be taken into account during the identification of direct and indirect deforestation and forest degradation drivers.
- 8- Indigenous peoples and local communities should receive assistance in the analysis of their opportunity costs regarding REDD.

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