

**Latin American Dialogue between Indigenous Peoples and the Forest Carbon
Partnership Facility FCPF**

SUMMARY

**Study of the Current Situation of the Participation of Indigenous Peoples in the
REDD+ Processes in Mesoamerica**

1. Presentation:

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, FCPF, is developing a dialogue process with indigenous peoples regionally and worldwide. Regionally, these dialogues are being coordinated with the *Coordinadora de Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica*, COICA, and the indigenous networks members of the Indigenous Forum of Abya Yala, FIAY-CC. For Mesoamerica it is being coordinated by the *Consejo Indígena de Centroamérica* (CICA), *El Consejo Indígena Mesoamericano* (CIMA); and the *Indigenous Women's Network on Biodiversity* (RMIB).

The executive summary of the Study titled: "*Current situation Indigenous Peoples' Participation in the Processes of REDD+ in Mesoamerica*", has the objective to provide updated information of the participation of indigenous peoples in the REDD+ processes in FCPF partner countries in the Mesoamerican region (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama), and to identify the possible risks, opportunities and preconditions of Indigenous Peoples.

The present study, provides information on the current state of negotiations and implementation of REDD+ in the Mesoamerican region, on the positions of indigenous peoples on this subject, it also outlines the processes of elaboration of the R-PP, and how the recognition, respect and practice of indigenous peoples' rights are being addressed, especially in relation to the lands, territories, natural resources, forests, carbon ownership, traditional knowledge, participation, consultation and free, prior and informed consent.

2. Regional Policies on Climate Change and Forests:

In the framework of the Central American Integration System (SICA), the States in the Region have approved policies, plans and projects in relation to Climate Change. During the Presidential Summit, celebrated in Honduras in May 2008, (Declaration of San Pedro Sula), the Presidents of the region established the guidelines for the Regional Strategy on Climate Change, which defines that climate change must be addressed in the Development Planning Strategies.

On the sectorial level, initiatives have been taken that link the subject of forestry in their policies, strategies and programmes such as the Strategic Regional Programme for the management of Forest Ecosystems (*Programa Estratégico Regional para el Manejo de los Ecosistemas Forestales*, PERFOR) which provides a regional, systemic and inter-sectorial approach for the management of forest ecosystems in the region. PERFOR is strategic and must be considered in an ample manner as a strategic planning instrument for regional forestry policy and for the Central American Forestry Strategy (EFCA).

In this regional level dynamic, diverse proposals have been constructed with the aim of developing a sustainable development strategy for the region. Highlighted among these, the Regional Agro-environmental and Health Strategy (ERAS), based on five interrelated strategic subjects: Sustainable Land Management, Climate Change and Climate Variability, Biodiversity, Agro-environmental businesses, **Spaces** and healthy lifestyles; the Environmental Plan for the Central American Region (PARCA), the Central American Strategy of Rural Territorial Development (ECADERT), the Regional Strategy on Biodiversity (ERB), the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (CBM), the Strategy for Integrated Management of Water Resources (ECAGIRH) and the Integrated Risk Management Policy (PCGIR).

It is important to note that for the processes of construction and content of these policies, plans and projects, indigenous peoples have participated and carried out advocacy to guarantee that their rights are recognised.

3. Indigenous vision of REDD+:

Indigenous peoples maintain a harmonious relationship with their forests, waters, natural resources, biodiversity and other elements of Mother Nature. This relationship is based in their cosmogonic vision of life and it is underpinned by the close relationship and interdependence of all elements in nature. This vision is reflected upon the cultural, political, social, economic and spiritual relationships which provide a specific vision of the concept of development, seen as *Buen Vivir* (living well), which is sustained in the equilibrium and harmonious relationship between the universe, Mother Earth, nature and human beings.

For indigenous peoples that cohabit the Mesoamerican Region, it is fundamental to analyse the implications of implementing REDD+ programmes and projects in **indigenous** territories. For indigenous peoples REDD+ is an initiative that has to be clearly defined, it must be widely consulted, the rights and property of carbon must be defined, a safeguard system must be created as established by the ILO Convention 169, ratified by Guatemala, Mexico, Costa Rica and Honduras, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and domestic law.

At this time when REDD+ , as a global proposal, and the national documents (R-PP) must be strengthened to recognise and clearly respect the collective rights of indigenous peoples, particularly related to self-determination, lands and territories, participation, consultation and free, prior and informed consent.

For indigenous peoples the air, the trees, the animals, the stars are part of a whole, where human beings are just a part of it and not its centre. This cosmogonic vision of life, propounds the existence of a relationship, between all elements of nature, it does not separate them but actually integrates them; hence the difficulty and the criticism towards the monocultural policies such as REDD+ that apart from proposing foreign concepts to indigenous languages, does not conform to the reality and model of use, management and conservation of forests in indigenous territories.

In relation to REDD+, indigenous peoples propose that if they are not involved in the design, planning, implementation and monitoring, this will affect their rights, impact the indigenous model or system of use, management and conservation. It will also create a probable division of the organisational structures and affect the conservation system of forests, waters, natural and cultural resources, biodiversity and the economic model.

4. Elaboration of the R-PP in Mesoamerica:

The countries of the Mesoamerican Region¹ have shown their interest and are working to become REDD+ countries. The R-PP of Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama has been approved; El Salvador and Honduras are currently in the formulation phase of the R-PP.

As administrators of REDD+ the following organisations are found: The World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank for Guatemala, UNDP for Panama and possibly for Honduras. Among the international institutions that are supporting REDD+ the following organisations are found: The Nature Conservancy, WWF, Conservation International, REDD+/GIZ/CCAD Programme, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

5. Indigenous participation in the formulation of the R-PP:

Regionally it can be affirmed that the formulation of the R-PPs, have generally considered, in a first stage, the participation and the rights of indigenous peoples. Thus indigenous peoples have sought their participation, stating that if REDD+ is not revised jointly this will attempt against their rights to their territories, to self-determination, to their institutions and their economic, governmental and justice administration systems.

In **Costa Rica** the R-PP is being developed by the *National Forestry Fund* (FONAFIFO), dependence of the Ministry of Environment. For indigenous peoples in Costa Rica, REDD+ must address, among others, the following fundamental issues: governance and lack of governance of the territories, loss of lands, territorial security, characteristics of the resources, access, management and cultural use of these, and the establishment of their own governance structures, as key factor for the sustainability of REDD+; the underlying causes that REDD+ intends to address; security of direct access to the benefits, equitable distribution and their own administration; a financial mechanism for indigenous organisations to autonomously establish their own mechanism of conservation of their resources (model of REDD+); compensation to reforest and recover resources of those communities and territories where third parties have deforested; the exclusion of indigenous territories from the carbon market for the widely known reasons: speculation, pressure over the resources, commodifying the goods and services of collective interest or the unequal conditions of the negotiations, governance, titling and land tenure problems, and a collective monitoring system with indigenous cultural indicators, *Buen Vivir*.

The R-PP of Costa Rica proposes that the strategy shall be consulted to the stakeholders, must be politically viable and financially feasible; must be consistent and pertinent to the REDD+ Project.

During the information phase for the formulation of the R-PP, activities related to indigenous peoples were carried out: a plan of work for the formulation of the R-PP, preparatory meetings were carried out, communities were visited, telephone calls and email communications were made, official informative files on REDD+ were delivered. The indigenous delegation created a technical team that will propose their participation plan.

¹ México, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

Currently in **Nicaragua** an accelerated degradation of the forest resource has been visualised, with strong impacts in the areas of the Autonomous Regions,² where the forest is located within indigenous territories properly demarcated and legally established, and the pressure on them is evident with the advancement of the agricultural frontier, the change of land use, contamination of rivers and water bodies of national and regional interest, as well as the change of land use of and invasion of colonisers to indigenous territories.

It is important to highlight that the State has been developing and strengthening their capacities in the administration, creating legal instruments levels and sublevels in the administration that must articulate national efforts oriented to strengthening their capacity for decision-making in the administration of areas and specific territories en according to their customary law recognised by the political constitution and specific laws (law 28 and law 445).

Nicaragua's R-PP proposes, in relation to indigenous peoples, that the consultation process will be adjusted to the requirements of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), ILO Convention 169, ratified by the government of Nicaragua, which includes the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples. This implies the respect to their culture and world vision, the use of their language in the consultation process, both orally and written and the traditional mechanisms of consultation that these communities have. Furthermore, this process will be adjusted to the requirements of the Operational Directive on Indigenous Peoples (OP 4.10) and the guidelines of the World Bank policy on stakeholder participation.

The consultation process and participation will be a central and crosscutting issue in the development of the R-PP, proposals development, mechanisms and decision-making on all the necessary elements of the preparation for a successful implementation of an **ENDE-REDD+** scheme in Nicaragua. This process can be divided in three (3) phases: (1) Initial activities with the necessary information and capacity building of the key stakeholders; (2) Development of consensus preparation proposals (Readiness); and, (3) Validation, officialising and dissemination of the proposals. These phases are also related with the roles of the three levels.

To comply with the elaboration of the ENDE-RPP by stages, a series of activities were proposed, related to the consultations at national, regional and local level for the functioning of the GT-ENDE.

Indigenous Peoples propose to the R-PP:³ that the sixth version of the R-PP already covers in its content a series of new elements inserted from the vision of indigenous Territories, Regional Governments and stakeholders of the sector, but still it doesn't reflect the main agreements subscribed in the consultation workshops carried out in the RAAN and do not reflect the clear aspects of the capacity building of the indigenous territories and the sub-national implementation in the process of construction of the ENDE Strategy and the sub-chapters defined in the autonomous regions.

² The Regional Autonomous Council of the North Atlantic, Regional Autonomous Government of the North Atlantic, Indigenous Territorial Governments, the Consultative Forestry and Environmental Committee of the RAAN, positioning of regional and territorial stakeholders in the framework of the 6th version of the R-PP in Nicaragua.

³ The Regional Autonomous Council of the North Atlantic, Regional Autonomous Government of the North Atlantic, Indigenous Territorial Governments, the Consultative Forestry and Environmental Committee of the RAAN, positioning of regional and territorial stakeholders in the framework of the 6th version of the R-PP in Nicaragua.

In **Honduras**, policies, programmes and projects have been proposed with the objective of conservation of forests. In the last months the Secretariat of Natural Resources (SERNA), the Institute of Forest Conservation (ICF), the National Agrarian Institute (INA), and the National Secretariat of Peoples and Afro-descendant people of Honduras (SEDINAFROH) have been promoting the implementation of the REDD+ strategy. In the face of this situation, indigenous peoples propose that such actions have impacts on them thus they propose that their inputs, traditional knowledge, territorial, political, social and cultural rights are recognised, particularly related to the right to free, prior and informed consent.

The participation of indigenous peoples in this process is fundamental, thus, the Confederation of Autochthonous Peoples of Honduras (CONPAH) has developed a revision process of the R-PP and constructed three base documents that reflect their proposals and demands that should be integrated into the R-PP: (1) *R-PP Summary Document*, which synthesises and mediates the content, which will serve for socialising this with the communities because the full document is difficult for its didactic use; (2) *Analysis titled "A view of Indigenous Peoples of Honduras in relation to the REDD+ RPP"*, the document has the objective of proposing, in a general way, their concerns, proposals and demands with regards to their full and effective participation, recognition and respect of their collective rights, particularly related to their lands, territories and natural resources, traditional knowledge and the application of free, prior and informed consent; and, (3) *A Proposal of the Guidelines for Building the Plan of Consultation and Implementation of Free, Prior and Informed Consent of indigenous peoples in Honduras' REDD+ Process*, this document contemplates a brief information on indigenous peoples in Honduras, the legal basis and a guide of the mechanisms or scope for the implementation of consultation and free, prior and informed consent, fundamental rights that must be considered by the REDD+ process, and the safeguards established in the Cancun Agreement in relation to REDD+ and Indigenous Peoples.

CONPAH proposes that their participation and dialogue in this process is of good faith and does not imply that they agree with or approve the R-PP, on the contrary, their participation obeys the fact that indigenous peoples, which have the right to participate in the actions that affect them or their territories, lands and natural resources.

The R-PP **proposes** that Honduras recognises the rights of indigenous peoples to be adequately consulted in accordance with the guidelines set by ILO Convention 169, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Nagoya Protocol, as well as the domestic legislation including the right of granting or abstaining from giving consent to the proposed measures.

El Salvador propose its initial consultation plan to be organised and implemented in a transparent, informed and participatory manner considering all representatives stakeholders of civil society which could be potentially affected by the implementation of REDD+, specially indigenous and local communities.

El Salvador already has a second draft of the R-PP which has undergone some modifications, addressing indigenous issues; nevertheless, Indigenous Peoples consider that it must be strengthened because to-date no approach has been made between MARN and Indigenous Peoples. The R-PP presented by MARN incorporates a section related to indigenous peoples,

its contents disregard the advancements of indigenous peoples rights internationally and the binding obligations deriving from them.

Since the REDD+ process was announced, The National Indigenous Coordinating Council of El Salvador (CCNIS), started a process for defining its position, to evidence their concern on the elaboration process of the document which doesn't adequately address free, prior and informed consultation, participation, safeguards, rights and access to lands and resources. CCNIS proposes that the implementation of REDD+ process within indigenous territories in El Salvador can generate negative impacts on the environment, their community-based economy and culture, which could attempt against the collective life and community harmony of the peoples destroying the *buen vivir*.

In **Guatemala**, the formulation process of the R-PP is under the responsibility of the Climate Change Unit of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, entity appointed as the focal point of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It prepared the proposal for the preparation of REDD in Guatemala, which was approved by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF).

Initially, indigenous peoples' participation was absent in this process, thus, the *Mesa Indígena sobre Cambio Climático*, in coordination with the National Alliance of Forestry Organisations of Guatemala, demanded their participation in the National Readiness Preparation Proposal, R-PP, as well as having their demands and proposals being included. As a result of their participation, an analysis and revision process was developed, where indigenous networks participated. Issues related to participation, consultation and consent were considered; these were the base of the analysis and revision process which concluded in the elaboration of a proposal from indigenous peoples' vision.

The main proposals made were the following: a) ensure the feasibility of the REDD+ Strategy, strengthening and implementing mechanisms of full and effective participation, consultation and conflict resolution that guarantee their free, prior and informed consent during its process of design and implementation, through an inclusive and transparent process that takes into consideration the main stakeholders related to forests in the country, specially indigenous peoples, local communities and those that can be negatively or positively affected by the actions aimed at the reduction of deforestation; b) Identify indigenous peoples, local communities and other actors affected directly or indirectly by the actions of reduction of deforestation, their influence levels and their prevailing relationships; c) To strengthen the institutional capacities of indigenous peoples, local communities and other relevant stakeholders, providing the conditions, information and tools for their engaged participation and better decision-making during the preparation of the ENRD; d) Guarantee the respect, recognition and practice of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, in relation to their lands, territories and natural resources, traditional knowledge, equitable distribution of benefits in accordance with ILO Convention 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; e) Formulate and implement a permanent mechanism of participation and consultation that ensures the free, prior and informed consent in relation to the planning and implementation of the REDD+ Strategy.

Finally, indigenous organisations propose that the strategy for reduction of forest degradation and deforestation in Guatemala must contemplate the following order: i) harmonise policies,

programmes and instruments of the sectors related to the land use, change of use and forest management; ii) strengthen the plans of *territorial management, cadastre, urban development, recognition and clarification of rights*; iii) develop a regulation framework and the related institutions with the *economic recognition of environmental systems and services*; iv) foster the *productive activities and means of sustainable and resilient lifestyles*, related to the conservation and sustainable management of forests and *agroforestry landscapes*; v) amplify and adapt the *forest incentives programmes* (for conservation, production, sustainable management of forest, agroforestry systems and energetic forest production activities); and vi) strengthen the institutional capacity of *forest surveillance and protection, justice operation and control of illegal logging*.

Currently the National Committee on Environmental and Social Safeguards for REDD+ (CNSAS) was established. It has the objective of decision-making in relation to the national interpretation of indicators and following up on the implementation of standards in Guatemala. The Committee is comprised of 11 representative members: 2 from the Central Government, 1 from Local Government, 2 from Indigenous Peoples, 1 from the National Alliance of Forestry Organisations, 1 from Women, 1 from Academia, 1 from Environmental NGOs and 2 from the Private Sector.

The construction process of the R-PP in **Mexico** is under the responsibility of the National Forestry Commission of the Federal Government and the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature (PRONATURA).

The Government of Mexico has recognised that the participation of indigenous peoples is fundamental for implementing the REDD+ strategy in the country.

The Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), through the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) has promoted consultative processes for drafting a forestry public policy on REDD+ that integrates the visions of social organisations, owners of forest lands, indigenous communities, academia and governmental institutions.

The first step was made with the drafting of the Mexico's Vision Document on REDD+ towards a National Strategy, presented during the COP16 last year, which establishes the guiding principles for the construction of a National REDD+ Strategy (ENAREDD+).

In Mexico's Vision on REDD+, it is established as a strategic line the integration of indigenous peoples in the implementation of REDD+ activities in the country, a task that SEMARNAT through CONAFOR have carried out during the initial stage through consultative fora.

Currently the Technical Consultative Council on REDD+ National Strategy is in a process of creating a Working Group for the creation of a ***national safeguard system***. This is a key process where indigenous peoples propose that REDD+ system must guarantee their full and effective participation. It is fundamental that this safeguard system is defined, that a financial architecture exists between regionalised funds and the operative mechanisms needed for indigenous producers, that analyses the equitable distribution of benefits and it is duly determined.

In Mexico information processes have been carried out on REDD+, these processes need to be strengthened because even though the government has carried out regional activities in the Yucatan Peninsula, with more than 400 members of communal farms in Mexico, it has been

insufficient. Indigenous peoples in Mexico state that REDD+ is constituted in a programme imminently aimed at carbon bond markets and considers territories only as carbon sinks, with the implementation of REDD+, full and effective participation of indigenous peoples is not explicitly guaranteed, the safeguard system is not defined, there is a loophole in the financial architecture of regionalised funds and the operative ways that producers need, the benefit distribution has not been duly determined, as is the strengthening of the capacity. The definition of avoided carbon property is still pending which has not been necessarily derived from the property of stored carbon where there is no discussion that it belongs to the producer.

In the **Republic of Panama** the government has established a tortuous relation with the National Coordinator of Indigenous Peoples Organisations of Panama (CONAPIP), because they have committed to take into consideration their proposals and demands that guarantee their rights and promote their participation, although this has not been carried out in practice. Indigenous Peoples in Panama state that they constitute one of the key stakeholders in the design and implementation of REDD+ Mechanisms, because most of the forest coverage is found within their territories, constituting the most important remaining of primary forest and biodiversity.

For implementing REDD+ in Panama it must be analysed that the actions are coherent with the principles of respect and recognition of the collective and territorial of indigenous peoples and the access and equitable benefit sharing must be guaranteed.

COONAPIP proposes that the process developed by UN-REDD and the National Environment Authority (ANAM) has been full of inconsistencies both in the contents of the proposals of the R-PP document as well as in the process itself. There is no understanding between UN-REDD+ and ANAM that COONAPIP is an entity of indigenous representation, political advocacy and facilitation of the consultation, but not an operative entity. The leaders of COONAPIP state that they are being used in this process and do not understand how the United Nations, being the entity responsible of disseminating and specially of implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, is not consistent in its actions with regards to indigenous peoples' rights in Panama.

The mechanisms used by UN-REDD+ in Panama and ANAM for strengthening are not ideal and the relationship between COONAPIP, UN-REDD and ANAM have generated confusion and discomfort among indigenous communities because it threatens the principles and aspirations of unity and consolidation of indigenous peoples. The process has generated mistrust and discredit of the political leadership by indigenous peoples, situation that has generated an unnecessary exhaustion which is certainly dangerous.

COONAPIP has made the following proposals to the REDD+ process: 1) create a plan of strengthening its institution; 2) a plan of participation for indigenous peoples in all levels and processes of REDD+ in Panama; 3) value the collective territorial rights, on lands and natural resources of indigenous peoples in the REDD+ document; 4) promote treaties and international instruments on indigenous peoples, analysing ILO Convention 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; 5) Strengthening plan for indigenous congresses and general councils; 6) capacity building of indigenous professionals, technicians and traditional scientists; 7) revision, analysis and adaptation on the norms on indigenous

peoples rights in the domestic legislation; 8) legal security on indigenous lands and territories; 9) environmental management, protection of Mother Earth and natural resources; 10) free, prior and informed consent in accordance with indigenous peoples own mechanisms; 11) communication and coordination of activities in indigenous areas; 12) legal recognition of the forest existence in the *comarcas* and indigenous territories with collective ownership; 13) forest administration/management; 14) development of *buen vivir* and equitable distribution of benefits; 15) strengthen the respect for indigenous peoples, and their internal administration and governance; 16) establish permanent monitoring and evaluation of the actions that will be developed on REDD+; 17) provide special attention on the issue of protection of medicinal plants; 18) food sovereignty for indigenous peoples; 19) recognition and validation of the methodological instruments of Balu Wala.

6. Proposals of Indigenous Peoples in Mesoamerica

- a) Create a regional fund for indigenous peoples in Mesoamerica that supports adaptation processes related to the use, management and conservation of forests in indigenous territories;
- b) Generate a process of revitalisation and strengthening of indigenous institutions responsible for the use, management and conservation of native forests in Mesoamerica.
- c) Develop a capacity-building process and technological transfer of traditional knowledge in forest use and conservation systems in Mesoamerica.
- d) Install a development, mapping and demarcation programme of forests in indigenous territories of Mesoamerica.
- e) Install a panel of evaluation and compliance regionally with regards to indigenous peoples.
- f) Elaborate indigenous regional, national and local protocols.
- g) A programme of forest incentives that recognises and maximises indigenous peoples' own systems of use, management and conservation in Mesoamerica.

7. Conclusions

- a) The REDD+ process must address the rights of indigenous peoples concretely, thus the necessity of revising documents and reframe their contents on the base of the minimum standards contained in the existing national and international human rights framework, particularly ILO Convention 169 ratified by the States of Honduras, Mexico, Guatemala and Costa Rica, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- b) The R-PP must define concrete proposals on the mechanisms, scope and forms of recognition of the territorial rights of Indigenous Peoples in relation to the conflicts and cases of land and forest.
- c) The R-PP consider indigenous peoples as another stakeholder of civil society and locates them as relevant interested-parties, whereas they shall consider them as a political subject of rights over their lands, territories and natural resources with

respect to their right to free, prior and informed consent, as well as their right to self-determination to define, through their own representative organisations, their development and conservation priorities.

- d) Even though most of the R-PPs propose the need to develop a consultation process, this must be clearly proposed on how it will be carried out, what methodology will be used and whether the decisions will be respected, therefore a territorial consultation plan must be proposed based on free, prior and informed consent.
- e) The R-PP must recognise that the traditional knowledge, traditional authorities, justice systems and the use and conservation have contributed in a significant way to the conservation of natural and cultural resources as well as the development of the country.
- f) An issue that the R-PPs must consider is the cultural impacts and establish social, environmental and cultural safeguards based on the rights of indigenous peoples, as well as the construction of an instrument that allows measuring said impacts in a quantitative and qualitative way.
- g) The R-PPs shall present clear proposals on the revision of the legal framework, specially related to respect, recognition and practice of indigenous peoples rights, free, prior and informed consent, and the processes for demarcation and titling of lands, traditional knowledge, consultation, participation, management of natural resources, forests and waters.
- h) The R-PPs have a focus on the assessment and monitoring of forest carbon, leaving aside the vision and values associated with the culture, livelihoods and biodiversity.

8. Recommendations

- a) To strengthen the forest governance schemes in Mesoamerica, it is fundamental to have ***indigenous peoples full and effective participation*** and that they are respected, recognised and their vision with regards to Mother Earth and Mother Nature, their models of life and their system of use, management and conservation are implemented
- b) Respect to the **participation** of indigenous peoples, the technical, political and financial conditions must be created for the full and effective participation. Roles, functions and mechanisms must be defined.
- c) REDD+ mechanisms must be integrated and complement existing processes aiming to reform forest governance with the aim of ensuring the respect of indigenous peoples' rights, to provide access and equitable distribution of benefits, promote sustainable use of forests and the conservation of biodiversity in the region.
- d) The vision of indigenous peoples on REDD+ and the conservation processes of natural resources must be analysed and seen as an alternative that can support the conservation of natural resources and the generation of sustainable development in the region.

- e) It is fundamental that the indigenous systems of use, management and conservation of forests are recognised as a mechanism of mitigation and reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases.

Indigenous Women's Network on Biodiversity (REMIB)

Indigenous Council of Central America (CICA)

Mesoamerican Indigenous Council (CIMA)

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