

December 3, 2013

Mr. Gregory Ch'oc
Executive Director
SATIIM
81 Main Street, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District
Belize C.A

Dear Mr.Ch'oc,

Acknowledgement of receipt by the Facility Management Team of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility of the November 4, 2013 letter from Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management and the Indigenous Communities of Sarstoon Temash region.

I write to respectfully acknowledge receipt by the Facility Management Team (FMT) of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the attached letter from Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM) and the communities of Graham Creek, Crique Sarco, Conejo Creek, Midway and Santa Teresa.

The FMT notes the concerns outlined in the letter regarding the formulation of Belize's Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), specifically: i) respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights; ii) Indigenous Peoples' collective ownership of their lands and resources; iii) recognition of Indigenous Peoples' land and resource rights; and, iv) continuous engagement with Indigenous Peoples.

A multi-stakeholder process is the foundation of successful REDD+ mechanisms in FCPF countries, and forms an important part of countries' readiness preparations.

As you are aware, Belize submitted a draft R-PP on September 13 2013 to the FCPF. In accordance with the existing FCPF R-PP review process, Belize's draft R-PP underwent review by a Technical Assessment Panel (TAP), and the Government was invited to revise the R-PP and return it to the FCPF by November 8 2013. The standards against which all R-PPs are assessed examines twelve key aspects, and three of them are principally related to your concerns, these are: information sharing and early dialogue with key stakeholder groups (1b), the consultation and participation process (1c), and the assessment of land use, forest law, policy and governance (including recognition of major land tenure and natural resource rights) (2a).

In its November 8 submission, the Government of Belize made substantial revisions to its R-PP, including reflecting a recent consultancy to undertaken by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) (and funded by the Central American Commission for Environment

and Development (CCAD)- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Program), to develop and carry out a plan for consultation on a national level on the draft R-PP, and provided additional information on land and resource tenure systems in Belize. TAP reviewed Belize's re-submitted R-PP and prepared a synthesis review. The revised R-PP and the TAP synthesis review have been made publically available on the FCPF website (found at <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/belize#overlay-context=redd-country-candidates>), ahead of the sixteenth meeting of the FCPF Participant's Committee (PC16), in Geneva December 13-15, 2013.

In the interest of transparency, the attached letter was forwarded to the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) responsible for reviewing Belize's R-PP. The FMT also notified the Government of Belize that the FMT received the letter. Furthermore, the FMT posted the letter on the FCPF website, making it available to Participant Committee members ahead of their consideration of Belize's R-PP at PC16.

Regarding the process going forward, at PC16 in Geneva 11 REDD Countries (including Belize) will present their R-PP for formal assessment by the Participants Committee, the FCPF's governing body. Potential REDD country candidate R-PP's will be reviewed and assessed by the Participants Committee, taking into account comments from the TAP. In selecting countries into the FCPF, the Participants Committee will consider the quality of the submitted R-PP, as informed by the TAP review, among other selection criteria. (Additional information on the review and selection of new REDD Countries into the FCPF is contained in [Resolution PC/14/2013/2.](#)) Furthermore, countries that are selected into the FCPF will be subject to a due diligence process conducted by the delivery partner (likely the World Bank) before a Readiness Preparation Grant Agreement can be signed.

Finally, please note that in accordance with the FCPF Charter, Mr. Onel Masardule will attend PC16 as the designated representative of Forest Dependent Indigenous Peoples and Other Forest Dwellers from Central America. If you have not done so already, I would encourage you to contact Mr. Masardule (email masardule@gmail.com, masardule@me.com) with regards to representing your views at PC16 in Geneva December 13-15, 2013.

I reiterate the FCPF is committed to ensuring an inclusive process in REDD+ activities and creating an enabling environment for the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent communities. Please do not hesitate to contact the FMT if you have any further concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Baroudy".

Ellysar Baroudy
Coordinator
Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, Carbon Finance Unit
Climate Policy & Finance Department, World Bank