



MAYA LEADERS ALLIANCE

V.O.A Rd., Punta Gorda Town, Toledo, Belize C.A.

Telephone: (501) 662.1663

Email: mayaleadersbelize@gmail.com

June 30, 2014

Ms. Ellysar Baroudy
Coordinator, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
World Bank Headquarters
Washington DC, USA

Dear Ms. Baroudy.

As you know we, the Maya Leaders Alliance (MLA) and the Toledo Alcaldes Association (TAA), are the collective traditional representative bodies of all 38 Maya communities in the Toledo District of southern Belize.

We write you today to reaffirm our objections to the Government of Belize's (GOB) participation in the collaborative initiative Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+). Many of the concerns raised by our offices to you in letters dated October 11 and December 10, 2013, respectively, continue to be ignored or not meaningfully addressed by the GOB in their most recent Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP). As a result, we again must respectfully request that the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) deny the GOB's request to become full REDD+ Country Participants.

In spite of recent decisions by the Supreme Court of Belize regarding a positive obligation to consult the Maya, together with your recommendations in the wake of the 2013 R-PP, the GOB has unfortunately continued to fail to consult with us in good faith with respect to REDD+. We acknowledge and applaud the changes that have been made by the GOB to the R-PP that is to be reviewed by you on July 3, but must insist that such changes remain insufficient to meet standards for consultation that have been established both nationally and internationally. The fact that the GOB has never formally presented us with their revised R-PP, nor formally met with us to discuss its application and implications, speaks to this.

The Maya people support efforts to prevent destruction and degradation of our forests, and therefore welcome the opportunity to engage appropriate agencies of the GOB to meaningfully discuss effective measures of forest conservation and management. However, in light of the above, we find ourselves in the unenviable position of having to submit our objections and again request the World Bank and FCPF to look into the activities of the GOB concerning the development of the REDD+ initiative in Belize. In particular, we ask that you urge the GOB to respect and abide by the provisions set out in the UN-REDD Program Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+ Readiness, the World Bank Operational Manual, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and others regarding consultation and engagement with Indigenous peoples. Without this, we feel strongly that GOB should continue to be denied status as REDD+ Country Participants.



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Please accept the assurance of our highest regard.

Sincerely,

Mr. Alfonso Cal
President
Toledo Alcaldes Association

Mr. Martin Chen
Chairman
Maya Leaders Alliance

cc.

Minister Lisel Alamilla, Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development

Mrs. Tanya Santo-Neal, Coordinator, REDD+ Coordinating Unit

Ms. Antoinette Moore, MLA Legal Team

Mr. Onel Masardule, IP Focal Point, Central American Region



Maya Leaders Alliance



*"Thought deeply, understood
each other and united their
words and thought" Popol Vuk*