

San Salvador, June 15, 2012

SUBJECT: Demand for withdrawal of second version of R-PP sent to FCPF on May 31, 2012 by the Government of El Salvador

Mister
Herman Rosa Chávez
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources
MARN
Government of El Salvador

Dear Minister Rosa Chávez,

The undersigned social organizations in El Salvador are writing you to let you know that in a meeting held on Wednesday June 13th of this year, we did an analysis of the second version of the document Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), which was submitted on May 31st by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN), which you chair, to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank (WB).

According to official information, the second version of the R-PP will be presented at the 12th Meeting of the Participants Committee (PC12) of the FCPF, to be held from 26 to 30 June in Santa Marta, Colombia, specifically in the "informal R-PP presentation" realm, as reflected in the PC12 agenda (version from June 2, 2012).

In this regard, it should be noted that the MARN had previously committed with the FCPF to present the first version of the R-PP for its "formal consideration" in the PC12, which was contained in the attached FMT Note 2012 - 3 dated March 14, 2012, with which it has become clear that the original intention, in your capacity as representative of MARN, was to obtain the approval of the first version of the R-PP, knowing that this document is based on a proposal elaborated without consultation, lacking social legitimacy, with obvious technical and scientific inconsistencies, and obvious disregard for the World Bank safeguards and for those adopted in Cancún and Durban, under the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

However, seeing now that the presentation of the R-PP in the PC12 would be "informal", our interpretation is that you have taken a step backwards in the process that began with the FCPF, and we do not doubt that this decision was a successful result of the advocacy process of our organizations, in which we explained our rejection on the first version of the R-PP and requested its withdrawal from the FCPF. This was based on the critical analysis done of the first version of the R-PP submitted to the FCPF on April 23 this year, and explained with the attached letter that we sent to you on the 15th of May.

However, we are concerned that the MARN does not want to acknowledge these facts

and wants to distort and hide their intentions through contradictory arguments to justify the lack of transparency, consultation and sustenance of this process. This is evident in your note from May 21 of this year, which suggests that the first version of R-PP from April 23 was only a draft initial formulation that was in the first stage of the feedback of the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) and that the second version of the R-PP from May 31 would be the official version to be used for the early dissemination stage in the process of its formulation, in which all our organizations would be invited to participate in a consultation and dialogue process, when the MARN has had more than three years to complete the consultation process, after the R-PIN of El Salvador was approved in June 2009.

In our opinion, your letter of response to our organizations reflects the intention to dismiss both the critical analysis performed on the first version of the R-PP April 23, as to demobilize our advocacy process by downgrading the R -PP to a "draft initial formulation", when we know that the MARN made a commitment to the FCPF to present the R-PP for its "formal consideration" in the PC12, and that there was a clear intention that the R-PP be eventually approved, despite the fact that the document lacked social legitimacy, scientific-technical support and political viability, and proposed conducting a consultation process after its approval.

We believe that the second official version of the R-PP to be presented "informally" in the PC12, it not harmless and that it creates a risky situation for our country. The PC12 could make favorable decisions, ignoring the rejection and arguments of our organizations, and accelerate the transition from the R-PP to the stage of "formal presentation" which could be approved for implementation at the October meeting of the PC (PC13).

This is occurring despite the fact that the second version of the R-PP produced by the MARN suffers from a non-consulted process, devoid of technical and scientific support and social and political viability, ignoring the rules of the social and environmental safeguards of the WB and the commitments expressed in the seven safeguards adopted at Cancún and Durban, including the rights of indigenous peoples, and peasant and forest dependent communities, among other relevant actors.

The presentation of the R-PP in PC12 reflects that MARN is not giving an appropriate response to the demand expressed in the May 15th letter of our organizations, which request the removal of the R-PP from the official FCPF process, to promote a national process of dissemination, public awareness and consultation on the current and future challenges of climate change and its associated variability, as well as the current state of multilateral negotiations on the subject and its serious implications for human societies and natural ecosystems of the earth, with the end purpose being to avoid serious negative implications for Salvadoran society and not to delay compliance of urgent national and international commitments on climate change.

Our country urgently needs to prioritize the elaboration, approval, and implementation of a national policy framework on climate change based in a National Strategy and Plan on Climate Change, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Appropriate

Mitigation Actions (NAMA). This policy framework should be the essential prerequisite for development and eventual adoption of a National REDD-plus Strategy, and should be sustained by the best available scientific knowledge and by the technical and methodological guidelines and criteria emanating from the multilateral process of the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In our meeting on June 13th, we have reaffirmed the validity and relevance of the comments reflected in the critical analysis document of the first version of R-PP from April 23, and have decided to reject the second version of the R-PP from May 31, since it does not consider the observations mentioned above in our critical analysis, and we reiterate our demand for withdrawal of the second version of the R-PP from the FCPF process.

On behalf of our brothers and sisters, cooperative organizations, rural and indigenous communities and various social organizations, signed: the Salvadoran National Indigenous Coordinating Council (CCNIS), the National Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives (CONFENACOA), the Salvadoran Confederation of Cooperatives (CONSALCOOP), the Association of Agricultural Communities of Human Development and Multiple Services (ACADEHMUS) and the Nonualco Indigenous Movement (MIN).

For any communication regarding our demands, please contact Betty Perez, national coordinator of CCNIS (ccniselsalvador@gmail.com).

The signatures and stamps are in the original letter in Spanish

Cc:

- Benoît Bosquet, Coordinator of the FCPF-WB
- Facility Management Team of the FCPF (FMT)
- Joëlle Chassard, WB Carbon Financing Unity Manager
- Gerardo Segura, Agriculture and Development Team, LCA Region, WB Environmental Department
- Alberto Leyton, WB Representative, El Salvador Office
- Ken Andrasko, Rajesh Koirala, Peter Saile, Stephanie Tam, Raju Koirala, Ken Andrasko and Leonel Iglesias from the WB
- Laszlo Pancel, REDD-GIZ Regional Program Coordinator
- Herman Rosa, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador
- Chris Lang, REDD-Monitor director
- Winfridus Overbeek, Coordinator of the World Rainforest Movement (WRM)