

Regional monitoring group of megaprojects in Ucayali (GRMMRUR)

Declaration about the unsustainability of the highway project: Pucallpa (Peru) to Cruzeiro do Sul (Brasil)

The signatories below, as members of the Regional monitoring group of megaprojects in Ucayali (GRMMRUR) composed principally of indigenous organisations and local NGOs in Ucayali, express our deep concern at the intent of the Peruvian State to push forward with the “construction of the binational highway *Pucallpa (Perú) – Cruzeiro do Sul (Brasil)*, section *Pucallpa –Brasilan border*”. The project outline contains serious social, environmental, economic and cultural deficiencies and which in turn will result in serious and profound indirect impacts that are cumulative, irreversible and predictable.

The project outline has been developed and overseen by the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MTC) through PROVIAS and implemented by the Pucallpa Highway consortium through project No 062-2011-MTC/20 for the sum of S/.1'163,858.20.

We highlight that the MTC have failed to apply their own regulations on public participation which require that information workshops and the concerns of the population likely to be affected must be carried out and documented prior to the elaboration of the project outline. This constitutes incompliance with ILO convention 169 with respect to indigenous participation, a fundamental pre requisite for the exercise of indigenous peoples' right to prior consultation which must be realised in the case that they wish to make this project a reality.

The project outline proposes to construct a stretch of highway the length of the watershed of the River Abujao. Not only is this close to the 'Reserved area Sierra del Divisor,' an official protected area with extremely high value for biodiversity conservation (and whose definitive categorisation is imminent). It is closer still to the Ishconahua territorial reserve created for indigenous peoples living in isolation whose health and lives would be made highly vulnerable to the impacts of an infrastructure project which include; immigration, land use change, deforestation, contamination of water sources, loss of biodiversity, habitat and cultural heritage in the form of the traditional management of natural resources by our indigenous peoples.

The indigenous population of the area also includes native communities in extreme poverty who require state support to finalise the formal recognition and demarcation of their lands. This in itself is a prior condition for a comprehensive land planning process which is even more essential in the light of such megaprojects promoted by the MTC. Financial resources such as those that have been spent on developing the project outline by the Peruvian state could have been used instead to address this pending issue.

We must also highlight the lack of transparency in the development of this project. There was no sustained coordination between the regional government, local governments nor

representatives of civil society beyond the organisation of two information workshops. These workshops resulted in the signing of documents that attempt to put on record that the project is accepted by local people in spite of the fact that this did not constitute a process of prior consultation as regulated by Law 29875.

This situation does not guarantee the minimum conditions that might promote sustainable development of the local population in the area nor our national heritage in its cultural and natural forms.

As a result, we REQUIRE that the Project Outline “Construction of the Binational Highway Pucallpa (Perú) – Cruzeiro do Sul (Brasil), (Pucallpa –Brasil section)” is declared unviable by the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the project should be defined as socially and environmentally unsustainable.

Ucayali, 30th October 2012

Signatories in Spanish

Grupo Regional de Monitoreo de Megaproyectos de Ucayali: ORAU, Organización Regional AIDSEEP-Ucayali; FECONAU-Federación de Comunidades Nativas y Afluentes; FECONBU-Federación de Comunidades Nativas del Bajo Ucayali; ORDIM-Organización de Desarrollo Indígena de Masisea; ACONAMAC-Asociación de Comunidades Ashanincas del Calleria y Tamaya; Asociaciones de cuencas del Abujao, Callería y Utuquinia; Comunidad Nativa de San Mateo; Comunidad Nativa Santa Rosita; Comunidad Nativa Flor de Ucayali; Escuela Amazónica de Derechos Humanos-EADH; Jóvenes Promotores en Derechos Humanos de Pucallpa- JOPRODEH; Red de Comunicadores Indígenas del Perú, Base Ucayali-REDCIP; Centro Amazónico de Antropología y Aplicación Práctica-CAAAP; Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales-DAR; Instituto del Bien Común-IBC; Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental-SPDA.