

# **PRONOUNCEMENT OF THE INDIGEOUS ORGANISATIONS OF THE PERUVIAN AMAZON REGARDING THE INVESTMENT PLAN OF THE FOREST INVESTMENT PROGRAMME IN PERU (PI FIP PERU)**

At the meeting in Lima on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013, indigenous organisations of the Peruvian amazon, represented by AIDESEP and CONAP and with participation of the general coordinator of COICA, declare the following pronouncements, after having analyzed the process of designing the Investment Plan of the Forest Investment Programme (IP FIP):

**We welcome** the *recognition and conservation of the main demands of indigenous peoples* within the final version of the Investment Plan of the FIP. For example, we welcome: the priority of 'enabling conditions for REDD+' such as land titles and indigenous forest management; the \$14.5 million for implementation of land titles (7'), community forest management (4') and community based control (3.5'); inclusion of AIDESEP and CONAP into the Directive Committee of the FIP Peru; the inclusion of the "Indigenous REDD+" proposals; the design of specific safeguards to prevent possible impacts; application of public funds to finance REDD+ instead of using only private funds; not to impose the ACR Cerro Escalera Shawi on the Kampus Piyawi people's integral territory; inclusion of the Amarakaire Comunal Reserve; not to prioritise colonisation, palm oil and big companies; the support of the Green Development Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples pushed forward by indigenous peoples; among other things.

**We are not pleased** with the delays and the complications in the development of the Investment Plan due to its lack of joint construction between the government, indigenous peoples and the banks. It was a mistake to believe that indigenous participation should be reduced to workshops of "consultation", where *elaborated plans made by consultants who lack the experience and the devotion to indigenous peoples'* reality are presented, while the experience and support of our leaders and professionals of indigenous organisations are not taken into account. The process changed and accelerated when this inadequate methodology was corrected and new consensus was reached through respectful dialogue and joint construction of the plan.

**We are not pleased** about the fact that this growing *distance between government functionaries and indigenous peoples* continues due to the withdrawal of agreements which had already been reached, and the inclusion of new ones that had not been discussed in the draft FIP Investment Plan. Although these irregularities have since been corrected, this is still a cause for concern as it happened, and it could happen again. The same problem could also be seen in the way the functionaries organised the logistical arrangements of the last workshop. Basic arrangements were not organised, such as the location for the internal meeting of indigenous leaders, the transportation to the airports in the Amazon and in Lima as well as the local transportation of indigenous leaders in Lima. The indigenous leaders do not tolerate being mistreated and ignored and we demand adequate attention and treatment, especially when there is sufficient budget to do this. The persons and functionaries that are responsible for this bad treatment have already been identified and we will present the claims to the regarding institutions. This greatly concerns us, because when there is no confidence to delegate the logistic arrangements to our organisations for such simple workshops, what will happen when the phase of designing the 04 projects and, even worse, the final execution of the activities will start? Guarantees are needed to prevent steps backwards and to enable adequate and democratic cooperation.

**We have to emphasise** our concern about the resistance to elaborate and urgently apply a mechanism that not only authorises REDD+ initiatives but also allows **monitoring and supervision** of their activities. This will help to highlight good practice, but also to sanction bad practice, as well as sanction and prevent the growth of carbon piracy. It is a mistake to renounce the protective function of the state, which has allowed, for example in Loreto, in Tamshiyacu, Valle del Shanusi (Romero group) the deforestation of thousands of hectares of prime forest to cultivate palm oil disguised as “cacao” while authorities were profiting. It is also wrong that the impunity still goes on of a carbon pirate that cheated the Yagua peoples with a “secret” contract that lasts over 90 years and mixes REDD+ with palm oil and wood extraction.

Based on these preoccupations we decided to declare and demand from the authorities who are part of the FIP Directive Committee (the Ministry of the Environment [MINAM], the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry [MINAGRI], the Ministry of Economy and Finance [MEF], the National Assembly of Regional Governments through the Amazon Interregional Council [CIAM], the Ministry of Culture, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank [IADB], FONAM) and from the Subcommittee of donor countries and members of the FIP, the following:

1. **We support the approval of the current version of the Investment Plan of the FIP**, as an expression of our cooperation, even if some of our observations and demands are still not incorporated. Furthermore, we reiterate three substantial actions that will guarantee the success of the FIP Investment Plan: the joint planning and construction of strategies together with indigenous peoples; community beneficiaries as direct actors; and the respectful cooperation between the government, indigenous peoples and banks.
2. The FIP Directive Committee, IADB and the World Bank has to show their willingness to include the professionals authorised by indigenous organisations in the **detailed consultation and design of the 04 projects** of the FIP Investment Plan (Tarapoto, Yurimaguas, Atalaya, Madre de Dios y Nacional). Otherwise, unnecessary conflicts could reoccur when projects are elaborated by consultants that represent the interests of powerful groups or that simply lack the experience of indigenous rights and intercultural knowledge.
3. The establishment of mechanisms within the FIP Investment Plan which allow indigenous communities and organisations to be the **beneficiaries who directly execute** activities to strengthen community forest management and community based control; and mechanisms that enable the **joint implementation**, in cooperation with regional governments, of community land titles. But these governments have to fulfill this obligation and they have to dedicate their funds to this obligation so that no regional government (like Loreto for example) again prioritises S/ 7' to the management of sports, without spending anything on indigenous peoples. We need guarantees that our support to the FIP Investment Plan will not end up in the irresponsible management and wasting of FIP IP funds by traditional bureaucracy, that will cause the reduction of impacts on Amazonian forests and peoples.
4. Strengthen mechanisms of indigenous participation that will allow the collective construction of policies, and ensure that the FIP Directive Committee adopts decisions by **consensus** instead of taking votes, because indigenous peoples are always the minority. This mechanism of inclusion also has to be applied to the **Directive Committees of the 03 regional projects** in Tarapoto-Yurimaguas, Atalaya and Madre de Dios. The regional and local indigenous organisations have to be part of the working process in order to manage the FIP Investment Plan within the 03 areas of implementation mentioned above.

5. The FIP Directive Committee has to commit to establishing a system of ***registration, qualification, authorisation, observation and eventual punishment*** of REDD+ initiatives in Peru in the first half of 2014, especially to stop “carbon piracy”.
  
6. The guarantee that the participation of AIDESEP and CONAP delegates at the next meeting of the FIP sub-committee on 30th October 2013 in Washington DC (USA) will be authorised and financed. This will demonstrate to FIP donor countries that cooperation with indigenous peoples can be a reality in Peru and that supporting this participation ensures respect for our right to freedom of speech.

As a sign of agreement, we subscribe to this pronouncement and authorise its distribution to the involved parties and to public opinion.

Nombre	DNI	Organización y cargo	Firma