



**autoridad  
nacional del  
ambiente**

Panama, June 10th, 2009  
AG-1615-2009

Mister  
Jose Eguren  
PNUD-Panama

Dear Mr. Eguren:

I am writing you in response to your note dated June 5, 2009, regarding the Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

As it is publicly known, the Republic of Panama signed the Convention on March 18, 1993, during the Administration of His Excellency Guillermo Endara Galimani, and ratified it during the Administration of his Excellency Ernesto Perez Balladares on May 23, 1995. During his administration, the Republic of Panama also signed and Ratified the Kyoto Protocol on August 6, 1998, and May 3, 1999, respectively, becoming only the eighth country in the world to do so. Also, the National Program on Climate Change was established under that administration.

Consequently, in 2001, during the Administration of Her Excellency Mireya Moscoso, the Republic of Panama presented its first National Report on Climate Change to the Secretariat of the Convention, and in 2003 included the Republic of Panama as one of the only eight countries in the world to participate in the first ever regional pilot project to strengthen national capacities to adapt to climate change, funded by the Global Environmental facility, as mandated by the First Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

Also, since 2004, during the current Administration of his Excellence Martin Torrijos Espino, the Republic of Panama has continued strengthening its national climate change institutional framework through the establishment of the Climate Change National Committee in 2008. This Administration is also presenting the Second National Report on Climate Change. In the intergovernmental arena, The Republic of Panama has continued playing a leadership role in the multilateral negotiations and has become the first country to acquire this Climate Change policy. For instance, The Republic of Panama currently holds a Co-Chair of the UN-REDD policy Board<sup>1</sup> and is an early member of the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Fund<sup>2</sup> (FCPF).

It is also publicly known that the significant technical and political progress made by the Republic of Panama on this issue is not the result of a single Government effort of the continued technical understanding and political leadership provided by our authorities since the Rio Conventions in 1992.

<sup>1</sup> It includes Bolivia, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Panama, Paraguay, Tanzania, Vietnam, and Zambia.

<sup>2</sup> It includes 40 developing countries approximately.




Since 2003 we have been providing a wide consultation with Civil Society through workshops, seminars and technical meetings.

The environmental management efforts in a country do not come to halt nor do they begin or end with governmental transitions. It is a responsibility of society as a whole. This is while our National Environmental Strategy and our REDD strategy are tools of state created to reduce vulnerability to climate change true adaptation and mitigation.

Finally, and to clarify the nature and scope of REDD, it has its origins in the intergovernmental negotiation process in the context of the Climate Change Convention. The resources for the implementation of REDD are very limited, as only very few countries have had access to them, and the Republic of Panama sees them as key to further our national endeavors towards alleviating poverty through the protection of forest ecosystems.

I truly hope that your decision does not impact the leadership role the Republic of Panama is Playing in the REDD process, given the possibility that Panama is chosen as one of the country to presented advances for the next COP-MOP in Copenhagen, and that our country is not left use of the first round of financing kindly put in place by the Government of Norway.

Respectfully,

  
**Ligia Castro de Doens**

Minister of Environmental Conservation Affairs  
And General Administrator



Cc: Minister of Environment, Norway  
UNFAO, UNEP, UNDP, UN-REDD  
Yvo de Boer, Secretario Ejecutivo de UNFCCC  
Members of the UN-REDD Policy Board  
Ministero de Economía y finanzas de la República de Panamá  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

**“Conservation for Sustainable Development”**