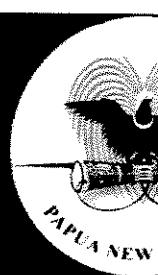




**OFFICE OF CLIMATIC CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT  
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09 September 2008

Mr. Jan-Jilles van der Hoeven  
Resident Representative a.i  
PO Box 1041  
**PORT MORESBY,**  
National Capital District

Dear Mr. Hoeven,

**Re: PNG Request to Participate in the UN REDD Initiative**

Let me thank you first of all for the meeting we had yesterday regarding PNG Climate Change Office and UNDP collaboration addressing climate change issues in Papua New Guinea.

I found our discussions on climate change very constructive. Further, I am pleased to hear under the UN RED initiative that you stand ready to assist my office and sister-agencies to addressing readiness activities to address policies and economics related to the ongoing rates of tropical deforestation. Let me again acknowledge my appreciation for the briefing I received from yourself and your team on the work related to REDD.

As you are aware, Papua New Guinea is working very closely with through the Coalition of Rainforest Nations (CfRN) to value the forest and manage it in a sustainable way to drive our common fight against Climate Change, whilst at the same time ensure that there are clear economic incentives to do so in dealing with mitigation and adaptation resources. For these reasons, Papua New Guinea has taken an active role in founding both the *Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CfRN)* and the *Forest-11 Group (F-11)* – more than 40 developing countries together holding over 75% of the world's tropical forests.

The Government has also recently established an *Office of Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability & Carbon Trade*. To begin, we will focus efforts on our leading sources of emissions – forestry, agriculture, energy, and transportation. Our ultimate objective is to decouple economic growth from carbon emissions and thereby develop a roadmap toward national carbon neutrality.

Further, through this office, we seek also to harness ongoing momentum to address emissions from deforestation that we believe may offer valuable insights into the role of developing countries within future international agreements on climate change. Concerned with the short timeframe leading up to Copenhagen and the UNFCCC's 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties, however, we believe that a coordinated

international effort is required – between industrialized and developing nations along with key international agencies, the private sector and NGOs.

In that regard, Papua New Guinea has been actively working with the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP FAO and AusAid to develop a 'Strategic Partnership for REDD.' I believe it is important to leverage the CfRN and the F-11 in order to develop a common set of principles, approaches and instruments amongst developing countries across differing geographical regions. The idea is to start immediately in a few targeted countries and ramp-up efforts through the CfRN and F-11 while leveraging the broad in-country office network of the international agencies.

Papua New Guinea would like to actively engage the United Nations agencies in the design and implementation of this broad partnership. I, therefore, seek your support to include Papua New Guinea on the UN REDD pilot projects. This will assist the Office of Climatic Change ability to:

- a) expand our international policy efforts through the CfRN and F-11,
- b) quickly capacitate our new Climate Change Office , and
- c) enhance in-country demonstration activities seeking to leverage learning internationally through the CfRN/F-11, REDD 'Strategic Partnership for REDD'.

For this reason, I request that a UN scoping mission be undertaken before the end of the year preferably in early October 2008 for us to jointly develop a programme of work in preparation for Copenhagen.

With my warmest regards and highest consideration,

Yours sincerely,

  
Dr Theo Yasause  
Executive Director

Mr. Jan-Jilles van der Hoeven  
Acting Resident Representative  
PNG Country Office

Copy : Mr. Kanawi Pouru - Managing Director – PNG Forest Authority  
Dr Wari Iamo – Secretary – Department of Environment and Conservation  
Mr. John McDramei – Acting Secretary - Dept Planning and District Development