United Nations

UNDP-PA-2013-01294

February 25, 2013

Dear Sirs:

Please receive a cordial greeting from the UN-REDD Programme.

At the beginning of the current month, the UN-REDD Secretariat received a recording of the event "Mesoamerican Consultation on the FCPF Common Approach to REDD+ Environmental and Social Safeguards", which occurred in 2012 in Panama City. During this event, a consultant from the UN-REDD regional team gave a vague and confusing answer to a question about what quantity of funds from the preparation phase of REDD+ would be earmarked for the indigenous peoples of Panama. Despite having no authority to discuss the matter, this person gave a response that confused funds from the UN-REDD Programme and other donors, and issues of REDD+ readiness and of institutional strengthening for political impact that reaches beyond REDD+.

We understand that this intervention raised expectations and misunderstandings, which has complicated our discussions since. Therefore, we want to once again present our sincerest apologies for this erroneous intervention. We take this opportunity to reiterate that the UN-REDD Programme in Panama has norms and regulations that we must comply with within all participating countries. The Resident Coordinator of the UN System in Panama has already clarified these points during the high-level meeting in August 2012, which was attended by COONAPIP and all the chiefs and kings of the indigenous peoples of Panama, the heads of the 3 UN agencies and the national UN-REDD focal point.

Nevertheless, we understand that COONAPIP remains dissatisfied regarding this issue. With the aim of continuing the readiness work for REDD+ together, we believe that it is necessary to overcome this misunderstanding, and not allow the mistake of one person constitute an insurmountable obstacle to the development of an initiative of this much importance to the country and all the partners involved.

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Mister

Betanio Chiquidama

President

National Coordination of Indigenous Peoples

City

Mister

Elivardo Membache

General Secretary and Chief

General Congress of the Collective Lands of Embera and Wounaan

City

Misters

Chiefs and Presidents of the Indigenous Congresses and General Councils of Panama

City

With this understanding, we reiterate our commitment to continue making every effort to promote the full and effective participation of the indigenous peoples of Panama, particularly those who want to participate in REDD+ readiness and the implementation of the UN-REDD Programme, fulfilling the objectives, standards and program deadlines.

In this sense, we note with concern that the technical committee "indigenous peoples, ANAM and UN-REDD agencies," despite having achieved interesting progress since September 2012, has not yet finalized its work and did not present it to the high-level committee. This presentation to all committee members is essential to ensure good communication between all stakeholders, between technical and political levels, national and local, and finally to allow an open discussion and decision-making that is collective rather than unilateral. We therefore propose that the technical committee meet once more to prepare the material to be presented during the next high-level meeting that will be convened subsequently. If you consider it useful, we could invite an external observer during this future high-level meeting to help us in the process.

With appreciation for your attention and again expressing our best disposition towards moving forward together in the implementation of the UN-REDD Panama programme, sincerely yours,

Kim Bolduc

Resident Coordinator of the UN System in Panama

Mario Boccucci

Secretary of the UN-REDD Programme

Margarita Astralaga,

Regional Director, Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean,

United Nations Environment Program

Deep Ford,

Sub-regional Coordinator for Central America and the Dominican Republic and Representative in Panama,

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

cc.

Mr. Silvano Vergara, ANAM

Mr. Gerardo González, ANAM

Mr. Eric Rodriguez, ANAM