



## **Regional Workshop Indigenous Peoples and Climate Finance Lima, April 25-26, 2016**

### **Indigenous Peoples with Voice**

Latin American representatives of indigenous organizations gathered for a Regional Workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Climate Finance in Lima on April 25-26, 2016. Through dialogue and analysis we evaluated with particular attention the Green Fund Climate (GCF) and the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), major financial funds created by the UN Framework on the Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In this space we reviewed with emphasis the creation processes, implementation, and incidence of the GCF and CIF funds; as well as their policies related to indigenous peoples and their territories, within the framework of respect for international instruments for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples policies.

An analysis on the progress in the implementation of these funds in some countries in the region was also conducted, through the voices of representatives of indigenous peoples themselves.

In this paper, we present the main conclusions and recommendations, which are also challenges:

1. The Green Climate Fund's (GCF) current structure does not guarantee the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the mechanisms that directly affect our rights as indigenous peoples and our territories.
2. Currently, according to GCF's processes, indigenous peoples do not have enough information nor adequate communication channels and information mechanisms.
3. The policy of the GCF does not contemplate the vision of indigenous peoples and their rights.
4. Considering that GCF is in the process of defining safeguards, it should carry a consultation process with indigenous organizations from the 7 sociocultural regions to inform the safeguards.
5. Indigenous peoples must have information and training on what happens on the GCF; being our main concern the implementation of its mechanisms in indigenous territories and its interference in our indigenous people's community structures.
6. The GCF must recognize and take note that indigenous peoples are the primary holders of rights to our territories, forests and natural resources.
7. Procedures involving the implementation in the territories of indigenous peoples must follow our rights to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) in the implementation of ILO Convention 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; as well as international and national legal frameworks that guarantee our rights and participation.
8. Given GCF's architecture, structure and functioning complexity, indigenous peoples demand improved communication to and towards networks of indigenous peoples

organizations and thus to contribute to an efficient governance with full indigenous peoples participation.

9. One of the identified gaps is that the flow of information distributed by the GCF and on the web is only in English, limiting the access of indigenous peoples to appropriate and useful information for decision making.
10. We note that indigenous peoples have no direct representation on the civil society main group, which does not respond to the recognition and respect for indigenous peoples achieved in the UN system with representation as actors with direct involvement.
11. It is worrying that indigenous organizations cannot access management of funds directly; funds go to intermediaries who don't know the priorities, interests and rights of indigenous peoples. The identified barriers for indigenous peoples to access these funds demand and require more effort to develop relevant management skills.
12. We note that current and existing mechanisms in the GCF do not guarantee the right and possession of territory of indigenous peoples, human rights, political participation and FPIC, referred to in the UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Ensure the protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the mechanisms of the CIF and GCF, taking as a fundamental basis the UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169.
2. Ensure participation of indigenous peoples actively, directly and in all processes of the CIF and GCF at national, regional and international levels.
3. The GCF should support the creation of an indigenous technical team to participate fully and effectively in all related implementation processes of the fund, at national and international levels. This initiative needs effort and investment to train indigenous professionals.
4. Make the effort and ensure spaces for indigenous observers in international negotiation processes, understanding that the interests and priorities of indigenous peoples are specific in relation to the general interests of civil society, due to the socio-cultural context (e.g. territory).
5. Establish adequate information flows that allow understanding in different languages, at minimum in UN official languages.
6. Ensure participation in national implementation mechanisms to help reduce risk for violation of human rights of indigenous peoples and their territories.
7. Ensure an appropriate legal framework, taking into account indigenous peoples as primary law subjects relative to their territories. Developing specific safeguards instruments consistent with existing rights of indigenous peoples.
8. Ensure culturally appropriate communications and information to secure the adequate spaces for dialogue and consensus free, prior and informed manner on decision-making, at all levels.
9. Designate resources to generate capacity on GCF from our own perspective and in full respect for our worldview, in appropriate communication forms.
10. Consider indigenous peoples as key players for proper implementation of programs and their impact on indigenous territories, taking their indigenous knowledge contributions on climate change and its complexities from local and at all levels.
11. Develop clearly defined policies and criteria for the accreditation of "accredited organization". They must share the purposes of the GCF in combating effects of climate change and with full respect for indigenous peoples inhabiting the territories; taking into account these basic conditions:
  - Full respect for the rights of indigenous peoples.
  - Sustainability criteria.

- Transparent and full respect for human rights processes.
- Association and collaboration of indigenous counterparts to ensure the rights of indigenous peoples and their right to land at the local level.
- Transparency and proper application of FPIC due process.
- Transparency and access to information on NDA selection processes.
- Indigenous participation in the selection process of accredited entities (in the accreditation council directly).
- Respect ethical rules, avoid conflicts of interest in decisions on accreditation, and grant funding rules.
- Do not accredit entities with extractive or polluting activities that go against the ethical principles of GCF and indigenous peoples.
- Evaluate the entity applying for accreditation and not just evaluating the project.

12. In the governance structure, the direct and active participation of representatives of indigenous peoples should be considered for direct involvement with GCF actions to specific concerns and strategies that are not included or understood as civil society and in accordance with the achievements in the UN system.

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#### Participants

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