

Federica Bietta
Special Advisor on Climate Change
Office of the Prime Minister
Papua New Guinea

Yoshiko Kijima
Senior Negotiator for Climate Change
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Japan

13 July 2010

Dear Chairs of the Interim REDD+ Partnership,

The undersigned organisations would like to express their strong objection to the terms on which civil society has been asked, through an invitation received on 7 July 2010, to participate in the upcoming meeting of the Interim REDD+ Partnership to be held on 14-15 July 2010 in Brasilia, Brazil. The extremely short advance notice given to civil society and the non-transparent process leading up to the meeting are in violation of the spirit and letter of the REDD+ Partnership Agreement and represent a serious false start for the Partnership.

The request that global civil society select twelve representative organisations “based on geographical distribution” and arrange for travel to Brasilia in one week is unrealistic and does not represent a genuine opportunity for most organisations, especially those from the South, to participate. The alternative suggestion provided by the co-chairs – that civil society stakeholders submit their views by e-mail – is clearly not an acceptable substitute for meaningful participation in the decision making process. This calls into question the sincerity of the co-chairs and Partners in upholding the principles of the REDD+ Partnership Agreement, particularly concerning the inclusion of representatives of civil society and indigenous peoples in the process.

The Partners agreed to “promote inclusiveness and transparency through the participation of a representative group of stakeholders” when they signed the REDD+ Partnership Agreement. We do not believe the process in the lead up to the meeting in Brasilia has been consistent with this commitment. For this reason, and the logistical impossibility of performing the requested selection process and making travel arrangements on such short notice, we do not plan to attend or participate in the Brasilia meeting.

A genuine commitment to inclusiveness is the only way to build trust and support for the work of the Partnership. We therefore urge the Partners to forgo making any substantive decisions regarding the Partnership work program or other policies at the Brasilia meeting, and to defer such decisions until a meeting with adequate stakeholder representation can be organised. We believe that in the absence of meaningful participation by civil society and indigenous peoples, the meeting in Brasilia lacks legitimacy, and any decisions made would represent a violation of the principle of inclusiveness that was committed to in the REDD+ Partnership Agreement.

Yours sincerely,

Alianza Nicaraguense frente al Cambio Climático, Nicaragua
Arbeitsgemeinschaft Regenwald und Artenschutz (ARA), Germany
Australian Orangutan Project, Australia
Bank Information Center, USA
CARE International
Le Centre d'Accompagnement des Autochtones Pygmées et Minoritaires Vulnérables (CAMV), DRC
Centro de Planificación y Estudios Sociales (CEPLAES), Ecuador
Centro Humboldt, Nicaragua
ClientEarth, UK
Environmental Investigation Agency, USA
Federation of Community Forestry Users (FECOFUN), Nepal
FERN, Belgium and UK
Friends of the Earth US
Friends of the Earth International
Fundación del Río, Nicaragua
Global Witness, UK
Greenpeace International
Humane Society International, Australia
Kenya Young Greens, Kenya
Maasai Community Outdoor Educators, Kenya
National Forum for Advocacy, Nepal
Nepenthes, Denmark
Ona Keto Peoples Foundation Inc, Papua New Guinea
Organisation Concertée des Ecologistes et Amis de Nature (OCEAN), DRC
Partners with Melanesians Inc, Papua New Guinea
PNG Ecoforestry Forum, Papua New Guinea
Pro Regenwald, Germany
Rainforest Action Network, USA
Rainforest Foundation Norway
Rainforest Foundation US
Rainforest Foundation UK
Reseau des Communicateurs de l'Environnement (RCEN), DRC
SONIA, Italy
Sustainable Development Institute, Liberia
Sustainability Watch Network - Central America
SustainUS, USA
Tebtebba, Philippines
The Wilderness Society, Australia
Ugewald, Germany