

CSO Comments on Matters Related to REDD+ support (BM17, July 2017)

Civil society and indigenous peoples' organizations want to thank the Secretariat and Board's REDD+ champions for the work on GCFs support for early phases REDD+, and for the document and draft decision presented to the board.

We welcome the mention of safeguards and land tenure rights of indigenous peoples in a number of elements of the document. We believe that land rights are the basis for successful REDD+ and are not only directly related to the safeguards implementation in the readiness phase, but also to the prevention of risks throughout the implementation of REDD+.

We urge the GCF to strengthen traditional land tenure rights of local communities and indigenous peoples in its consideration of support for REDD+ and to pay attention to the role of women in this work.

We support the Secretariat's efforts to encourage NDAs and focal points to submit concept notes, project preparation facility requests and funding proposals that will facilitate support for early phases of REDD-plus, as well as the Secretariat's efforts to prepare appropriate communication material on the pathways for GCF support for early phases of REDD-plus.

It is of paramount importance that NDAs, AEs and REDD+ Focal Points in the country must ensure full and effective participation of stakeholders including Indigenous Peoples and women at national and local levels. Even though REDD+ interventions heavily rely on government actors, we want to stress the importance of inclusion of all actors in land use and reform processes to ensure successful interventions. This includes amongst others women, indigenous peoples, local communities and civil society organizations.

Support for capacity building and consultation processes at the country level is important to ensure this participation and involvement.

We also wish to underscore the need for complementarity and coherence with other funds in the REDD+ space. This also goes for the national level, where coherence and complementarity is important to ensure synergies between different actors and REDD+ interventions.