

**IPAM suggestions on UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles & Criteria, Draft for
Consultation – 30 June 2011**

Dear UN-REDD Secretariat,

In response to your request for providing inputs on the new version of UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria, IPAM would like to thank you for the revised version of the document in which many of our previous suggestions were incorporated. We believe that this new version is better formulated and presents a significant improvement when compared to version 1.

However, we would like to recommend the Secretariat to come back to the previous intent expressed on page 7 (next steps) of the document “Update on Social and Environmental Principles” and offer a Public comment period via UN-REDD Programme website. In this sense, a formal notification and invitation to provide feedback on this new version would be sent to a greater community and not restricted to Policy Board members. Our suggestion would be that this document could be made available at the public UN-REDD website or using a tool such as google documents or dropbox that could grant the easy access to a greater community. By doing this, the process would increase transparency and participation of relevant stakeholders.

Some of the concerns we have received from our constituencies was exactly related to the lack of transparency and participation of a greater variety of stakeholders in the process of elaboration of this principles and criteria.

We still believe that this set of Principles and Criteria can be improved and by saying this we strongly encourage the proper engagement of a broader community on the process of elaboration. Over the past two years the UN-REDD Programme has made an encouraging start in addressing the need for strong safeguards under the Global Programme, including pioneering global consultations on Free Prior and Informed Consent, important collaborations on REDD+ governance and the harmonized set of guidelines on stakeholder engagement. Nevertheless, the process of elaborating this set of Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria and corresponding risk assessment tools is being considered by some Civil society organizations as a non-inclusive and transparent one, and risk creating a race to the bottom in global REDD+ standards. This can undermine the work undertaken by UN-REDD Programme so far.

Attached you can also find some comments provided by WWF. Some other organizations have indicated to us they would be interested to provide comments on this new version of the UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria but until now we have not received further comments. Maybe they have sent their comments directly to you on the e-mail indicated, since no guidance was expressly offered specifying they would need to forward their comments through the civil society representatives at the Policy Board of the UN-REDD Programme.



We appreciate your efforts relating to this document and we reinforce our commitment to provide support to the elaboration of this document.

Sincerely,

Mariana Christovam

CSO representative of LAC region at the Policy Board of the UN-REDD Programme.

