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Media Release

For immediate release

COICA and WWF present concept and implementation of Amazon Indigenous REDD+

COICA (the Coordination of Indigenous Organizations in the Amazon), WWF (through its Living Amazon Initiative and Amazon and German national offices) and the German government (through the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety - BMUB) this Tuesday, 09 December, will announce the launch a new initiative, 'Including Key Elements of Amazon Indigenous REDD+ in Regional and National Climate Change Strategies'. The press conference will be at Press Room 2, UNFCCC CoP-20 official venue, Lima, Peru, from 13:30 to 4:00

This project represents an alliance between COICA and WWF, with support from Germany, to implement pilot cases of the 'Amazon Indigenous REDD+' in Madre de Dios, Peru and Inirida, Colombia. The project will also include a test case in Ecuador. The 'Amazon Indigenous REDD+' proposal is an innovative approach to REDD+ collectively developed by the Amazon Basin Indigenous Peoples and their key allies—coordinated by COICA. This proposal actively contributes to REDD+ at a global level, with a focus on environmental and human rights. The experiences from the pilot cases will be used to improve technical elements of the 'Amazon Indigenous REDD+' proposal. The improved concept will then be presented to governments and international organizations for consideration and support.

One in ten known species on Earth lives in the Amazon. Its forests contain 90-140 billion metric tons of carbon, the release of even a portion of which would accelerate global warming significantly. Thirty-four million people living in the Amazon depend on its resources and services. More than three hundred indigenous groups, including 60 that live in voluntary isolation, also call the Amazon home. For generations, these groups have worked to protect their territories against deforestation and forest degradation.

Today, the Amazon is increasingly threatened by land speculation and illegal land grabs, cattle ranching, large plantations, hydropower dams, mining, oil exploration and exploitation, and settlements.

"Alliances such as this one between COICA, WWF, and the German government are



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vital to building management capacities for indigenous REDD+ implementation in the Amazon,” said Claudio Maretti, Leader of the WWF Living Amazon Initiative.

“Respecting indigenous peoples’ rights and supporting them in this initiative is key to achieving the result that we all want – to keep the Amazon alive.”

About WWF - WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. The Global Climate & Energy Initiative (GCEI) is WWF's global programme addressing climate change, promoting renewable and sustainable energy, scaling up green finance, engaging the private sector and working nationally and internationally on implementing low carbon, climate resilient development.