



WWF

FACTSHEET

2013

REDD+ Inspiring Practices

# HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES

## Development of the Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Proposal

### SNAPSHOT

#### What

» An innovative REDD+ proposal collectively developed by the Amazon Basin Indigenous Peoples and their key allies

#### Who

- » Bank Information Center (BIC)
- » Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA)
- » Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos (DAR)
- » World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

#### Where

Amazon Basin

#### When

2009–Ongoing

#### Project Team

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PHOTO: J. FERGUSON-MITCHELL (WWF)

Sônia Guajajara, vice-coordinator of COIAB (Coordenação das Organizações Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira / Coordinator of indigenous organization of the Brazilian Amazon) and COICA member, discusses the Indigenous REDD+ Proposal at UNFCCC-COP18, in Doha, Qatar.

### SUMMARY

**The Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Proposal is an innovative approach to REDD+ collectively developed by the Amazon Basin Indigenous Peoples and their key allies—coordinated by the regional organization Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA). This proposal actively contributes to REDD+ at a global level, with a focus on environmental and human rights.**

This REDD+ *Inspiring Practice* highlights the importance of planning for and implementing REDD+ in a way that includes the needs and values of indigenous groups. During the proposal-writing process, the holistic vision of indigenous communities was enriched by the capacity building and technical support of key partners, such as WWF. The result

was a proposal for REDD+ that underscores the inclusion of land rights; free, prior and informed consent; and active indigenous participation.

### EXPECTED CHANGES

- A global REDD+ mechanism that respects and guarantees the needs, rights and vision of Indigenous Peoples.
- Support for including holistic management of the territories and the protection of the integrity of forest ecosystem services by Indigenous Peoples into the current REDD+ negotiations.
- Committed donors who favour global, social and environmental changes reducing greenhouse gases emissions.

- Empowered Indigenous Peoples that make decisions according to their traditional processes and manage forests in ways that integrate their long-established knowledge.
- The implementation of environmental and social safeguards, delineation and titling of indigenous lands, and sustainable management of resources.

## CONTEXT

REDD+ has the potential to build international support for Indigenous Peoples' issues such as community territory rights, an increased participation in policy decisions, and concrete benefits from sustainable forest management. Nonetheless, REDD+ has also sparked concern about possible adverse impacts on indigenous and community rights and livelihoods.

The Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Proposal seeks to value the integrity of indigenous lands and forests ecosystem services; it goes beyond carbon capture as it encourages the adoption of an integral vision and a wide approach to incorporate other goods and services that forests provide.

The Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Proposal incorporates issues such as human rights, land tenure, consultation, consent and participation. It specifically argues that Amazon Basin Indigenous Peoples are committed to the conservation and management of their forests and proposes that any mechanism for valuation and compensation of forests should recognize the multiple ecosystemic and cultural services of these forests within a framework of respect for indigenous rights.



PHOTO: DIEGO PÉREZ/WWF-PERU

Indigenous communities in Peru's Madre De Dios region of the Amazon participated in the development of the Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Proposal.

## STAKEHOLDERS



### DIRECT STAKEHOLDERS

INVOLVED IN PROJECT DESIGN, MAKE DECISIONS, AND RECEIVE BENEFITS.

Indigenous organizations from the nine countries of the Amazon Basin (COICA)—coordinated through the organization Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA)

### STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDERS

PROVIDES MATERIAL, HUMAN, AND OTHER RESOURCES.

- Bank Information Center (BIC)
- Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos (DAR)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

### INDIRECT STAKEHOLDERS

INFLUENCES PRACTICE WITHOUT BEING DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

More than 300 indigenous groups across the Amazon region, representing more than one million Indigenous Peoples.

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

### ■ 2009—Developing the Amazonian Indigenous vision on climate change:

The Steering and Technical Committees of COICA write *REDD+ and Climate Change: Policies and Criteria*, which formulates a comprehensive Amazonian Indigenous Peoples vision of REDD+. This document is first presented at a side event of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP15) in Copenhagen, Denmark.

### ■ 2010—Agreeing on and validating the vision:

At a meeting in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, members of the COICA board and Indigenous Peoples representatives of the nine countries of the Amazon Basin come together to discuss, validate and officially approve the policies and criteria of the document. The *Handbook of REDD+ and Climate Change* is written and disseminated as a tool for community capacity building.

### ■ 2011—Developing the Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Conceptual Proposal:

COICA organizes the First Amazon Regional Summit in Manaus, Brazil, with a goal of establishing practical measures for the conservation and sustainable use of the forests of the Amazon Basin and Latin America. At this summit, representatives of indigenous communities from the nine countries of the Amazon Basin along with collaborating agencies discuss concerns, challenges and next steps for REDD+. A technical group is formed and outlines the *Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Conceptual Proposal*. COICA, Indigenous Peoples representatives from the nine Amazonian Basin countries, and members of civil society present the conceptual proposal at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP17) in Durban, South Africa.

### ■ 2012—Disseminating Amazonian Indigenous REDD+:

COICA leaders and national partners share the Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Proposal with the international community through their presence at global events. They participate in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meetings such as the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 36) event in Bonn, Germany and the Conference of Parties (UNFCCC COP18) in Doha, Qatar. The proposal is also backed by the Assembly of the Climate Alliance of European Cities with Indigenous Rainforest Peoples<sup>1</sup> who publicly announces its support for the Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Proposal and calls for its implementation in at least four million hectares across five Amazonian countries. The importance of the proposal is reinforced through further international recognition and bilateral dialogues. A work plan is established for the implementation of the proposal.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

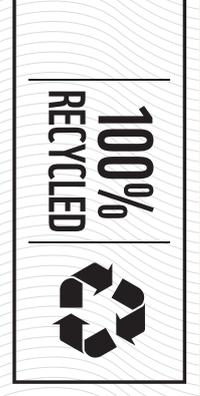
- REDD+ processes now include important strategic topics such as land use, tenure, independent carbon dealer monitoring, early safeguards and holistic management of natural resources.
- The multiple perspectives of Amazon Basin Indigenous Peoples from nine countries have been integrated into one cohesive vision.
- There is an increased dialogue between Amazon Basin Indigenous Peoples and the international community through a tangible proposal that meets the needs of Indigenous Peoples. This dialogue has led to new alliances with donors who can fund REDD+ work.
- COICA's technical and political capacities—and those of the Indigenous Peoples that it represents—have been strengthened through the process of working, negotiating and establishing partnerships with other organizations and governments.

<sup>1</sup> Climate Alliance of European Cities with Indigenous Rainforest Peoples, is the European network of local authorities committed to the protection of the world's climate. The member cities and municipalities aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at their source. Their allies in this endeavour are the Indigenous Peoples of the rainforests in the Amazon Basin.



**“WE ARE EXCITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A PROCESS THAT ALLOWS AMAZON BASIN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ BELIEFS TO BE HEARD ON AN INTERNATIONAL STAGE.”**

Diego Escobar (COICA)



**CHALLENGES**

- The success of the Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ proposal required a dialogue between governments and conservation organizations who did not always share the same views. When there were discrepancies, the negotiation process was delayed until all groups came to an agreement.
- The implementation of the proposal relies on significant technical and financial resources from various groups. Additional resources are needed to boost the impact of this work.

**LESSONS LEARNED**

- **The intercultural and gradual development of a proposal ensures its legitimacy and sustainability.** The intercultural development of the Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Proposal included an innovative combination of traditional knowledge along with scientific and technical approaches. Stakeholders had various opportunities to share their input during the development process, which leads to more personal engagement in its success.
- **The holistic perspective of the Indigenous Peoples adds value to the traditional REDD+ approach.** This proposal fosters the adoption of a more integral and strategic vision for land management and incorporates the Indigenous Peoples' cultural dimension. This will ensure sustainable results and impacts at an environmental, social, cultural and political level.
- **Moving from discourse to a tangible proposal drives change in REDD+ dialogues.** Developing a practical, technical, proactive proposal provides more legitimacy and visibility to the representatives of the Amazon Basin Indigenous Peoples in international REDD+ discussions. The proposal has also led to increased dialogues and new alliances with donors.

**OUR VISION**

WWF's global Forest and Climate Initiative is working to ensure that REDD+ significantly contributes to the conservation of tropical forest and thereby to the reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation for the benefit of people and nature.  
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 To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.  
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