

LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND AFRO-DESCENDANT PEOPLE OF SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN MUST BE CONSIDERED WITHIN THE POLICY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND

" Call for Public Inputs – Draft **Indigenous** Communities' **Policy**"
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Taking into account that resolution B. 15/01, paragraph (a), required the secretariat to develop a policy of indigenous communities throughout the Fund and that the secretariat of the GCF has made a public invitation to receive comments on the documents of the GCF "Indigenous Communities Policy Project", the signatory organizations of this document suggest to GCF's commission to take into account the following considerations: Based on the following fundamentals:

Introduction: As established by the Economic Commission for South America and the Caribbean, ECLAC, the Afro-descendant black people in South America and the Caribbean "... constitute a very significant fraction of the regional population, representing at least 30%". Afro-descendant Black people are the population of descendants of enslaved Africans in South America and the Caribbean. In recent years, this town has become a fundamental social and political actor in the vindication of collective rights with a high degree of self-determination, autonomy and control of the territory. It is important to bear in mind that much of the territories occupied by the black people are considered strategic areas in the face of climate change due to their high environmental diversity.

Based on the aforementioned, the signatories who make an integral part of the Proceso de Comunidades Negras (Black Communities Process) in Colombia and allied organizations that support the mechanisms of defense of the collective rights of the Afro-descendant black people, we have come up with some proposals in order to nurture this policy, with the aspiration that it becomes sufficiently broad and strengthened to meet the great challenges that we as humanity pursue in the face of climate change.

Here we can explain the structure of the proposal in politics. The comments of this proposal are extended to define new scopes and principles:

A) About the scope and principles

1. Scope and scope of extensive and express application.

We consider that in the policy of indigenous communities of the Green Climate Fund their scope must be extensive and include in an express way the reference to:

"Indigenous communities, local communities and Afro-descendant communities of South America and the Caribbean" along the same.

The previous, since referring to the category of indigenous communities as a universal typology that reflects the cultural and ethnic diversity of all communities, it would be at risk of obviating and restricting the specific recognition of other communities and populations as is the case of local communities and Afro-descendant communities of South America and the Caribbean. , who have their own worldviews and ways of life and who, unlike many populations of African descent, are not self-recognized under the category of indigenous communities.

This explicit required is based on "the Millennium Declaration" which reaffirms the general purposes of the United Nations and, it synthesizes and summarizes the minimum goals of previous conferences, as a general task to make the process of globalization a positive force, so that its benefits are distributed more equitably among all people.

We ask the Fund to take into account that:

The traits of the culture of Afro-descendant communities in South America and the Caribbean are marked by the retention of historical memory, the restoration of the profound damage caused by trafficking, trade and enslavement, refracting in a particular way that these communities have to conceive their cultural identity. In this perspective, the universe of reference that supports the cultural identity of these communities is harmonized in a network of interdependence of correlations between worldviews, cultural practices and historical memory, which is supported by the indissoluble nature-culture relationship. These biocultural factors are an integral part of the processes of appropriation, relations and interactions of these communities because it guarantees the reproduction of their cultural structure in the long term. It is from this complex network that recreates the survival of these communities in the territory, thus, the Territory is the result of the relation of the culture with its natural environment: territory + own Culture = biodiversity, this implies that without the intervention and presence of the cultural practices of the care that these communities have maintained on their habitat would be impossible the existence of the biodiversity.

The cultural identity of Afro-descendant communities in South America and the Caribbean is constitutive of the ethnic and cultural diversity of humanity. In this sense, these communities have a specific condition as culturally differentiated ethnic group that defines it as a political subject of rights in decisions that affect their aspirations, their lives, their territories and their own systems of government. So it is so that in order to eradicate discrimination against people of African descent, in the report on its ninth session (12-16 April 2010), the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGPAD) "recommended that the international community declare an international decade for Afro-descendants to make more visible challenges," identify solutions and undertake a sustained campaign to eradicate structural discrimination against people of African descent.

In line with the previous and in accordance with the Paris Agreement by recognizing among other things that "climate change is a common problem of humanity," so the parties, in adopting measures to deal with climate change, should respect, promote and take into account their respective obligations regarding to human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous communities, local communities, migrants, children, people with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, women's empowerment and intergenerational equity, "and that the international Framework for the protection of human Rights has made it possible to advance in the fight against all forms of Racial Discrimination

through the development of instruments such as;" The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial discrimination (ICERD), the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial discrimination and related to Intolerance, the Durban Declaration and Action program , the latter adopted by consensus at the World Conference against Racism of 2001 held in Durban, South Africa , as well as resolution 68/237 which proclaimed the International Decade of Afro-descendants: "Recognition, Justice and development" in 2013, and that these documents are constituted in integral and action-oriented instruments, which consecrate the strong commitment of the international community to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance at the national level , regional and international.

That, however, and despite the multiple efforts, racial discrimination continues to demonstrating in different stages of economic, social, cultural, civil, political participation, and especially in decision-making at the national and global levels. We consider that what is regarding to the design, structuring and implementation of the actions supported by the UNFCCC financial mechanism (GCF), it must be effectively and equally addressed to the observations made by the most vulnerable and lagging communities historically, among them the local communities and Afro-descendant communities of South America and the Caribbean, so that their participation and effective inclusion must be guaranteed from the very design of the policy that seeks to regulate and promote the guarantee of their rights in the development of the actions necessary to cope with climate change.

We also believe that the political framework designed by the Fund and which today we are dealing with t, it must adequately collect comments on the guarantee and protection of rights of all communities in order to promote the applicability of all States parties in order to ensure that these, guided by the principles and guidelines of the Green Climate Fund , manage to meet the minimum requirements for this established in order to achieve the participation and respect for the rights of these populations, tending by the recognition and protection of them.

It is important that the Green Climate Fund based on the fundamental standard of self-identification under which the interpretation and application of ILO Convention 169 should be carried out, and taking into account that the Durban declaration used the African, Afro-descendant and indigenous terms in a differentiated manner, recognizing in number 14 of the declaration that "Colonialism has led to racism" , racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and that Africans and Afro-descendants, people from Asian and indigenous communities were victims of colonialism and continue being of their consequences, "and that the same statement acknowledged" the value and diversity of the cultural heritage of Africans and Afro-descendants "by asserting the importance and need to ensure their complete integration into social life , economic and political with a view to facilitating its full participation at all levels of the decision-making process "use explicit definition and reference to local and Afro-descendant communities in South America and the Caribbean."

We require that what is pointed out in Durban declaration be heeded (general Issues number 34) recognizing that:

34. (...) Afro-descendants have been victims of racism, racial discrimination and enslavement for centuries, and the historical denial of many of their rights, and we affirm that they must be treated with fairness and respect for their dignity, and that they should not suffer discrimination of any kind. Therefore, their rights to culture and identity must be recognized; To participate freely and on equal terms in political, social, economic and cultural life; To development within the framework of their own aspirations and customs; To have, maintain and promote their own forms of organization, their way of life, culture, traditions and religious manifestations; To keep and use their own languages; (a) the protection of their traditional knowledge and cultural and artistic heritage; To the use, enjoyment and conservation of the renewable natural resources of its habitat and to participate actively in the design, implementation and development of education systems and programs, including those of a specific and own character; And, where appropriate, to the lands that have habited since ancient times "

We emphasize once again the importance and the special value that the policy of indigenous communities of the Green Climate Fund would have in the fight against the scourge of climate change, by endorsing and reaffirming the recognition that the multiple international human rights instruments have managed to develop in order to protect and guarantee the rights of local communities and Afro-descendant communities of South America and the Caribbean. We believe that this practice would ensure the non-escalation of ethnically recognized rights in particular and would highlight its contribution within the biological, and cultural conservation of humanity

So, we suggest to generate an explicit recognition within the policy towards the local communities and the Afro-descendant communities of South America and the Caribbean in the policy of indigenous communities of the Green Climate Fund, extending its application to all articles that make nominal reference to indigenous communities as collateral, recognition and progressiveness of the rights of these communities and populations. Likewise we call on the Board of Directors of the Fund to consider already a space of participation and recognition to the Afro-descendant communities of South America and the Caribbean in the decision making related to everything that has to do with the design, development and implementation of policies, safeguards and guidelines for the financing of plans, programs and projects to be supported with Fund resources.

2. Scope, inclusion, definition and development of the principles contained in the policy.

From the perspective of Afro-descendant communities, it is important to include the following guiding principles within the indigenous communities ' policy of the Green Climate Fund;

IV. Guiding Principles (...)

17. The guiding principles of this policy will also include:

(...)

(h) Recognition and self-determination of the system of self-government. The Fund should promote respect for the right of indigenous communities and Afro-descendant communities to freely determine their political status and freely promote their economic development, social, spiritual and cultural, and consequently promote their right to autonomy or self-government in relation to, their culture, religion, education, information, media, health, room, employment, social welfare, economic activities , Land and resource management, environment and non-member income; As well as to determine the resources and means to finance these autonomous functions.

i) Traceability. The policy must promote a favorable interpretation and application under the principles of accessibility, affordability, adaptability and acceptability to ensure non-discrimination and equal rights, this implies going beyond the standardization and homogenization of human diversity through the interpretative category of indigenous communities, to specify and make explicit reference to the Afro-descendant communities of South America and the Caribbean.

J) Historical repair. The fund must repair the historically constructed and augmented imbalance between the significant contribution of the population of Afro-descendant communities to the material, cultural and political construction of humankind.

We also believe that in order to achieve adequate coverage in the policy it is necessary to extend the following guiding principles in response to the following observations:

1. Within the guiding principles, literal "B" to improve the rights of indigenous communities to their lands, territories and resources.

We suggest considering the following wording;

"Recognize, respect and guarantee the rights of indigenous communities, local communities and Afro-descendant communities of South America and the Caribbean".

2. Within the guiding Principles, literal "G" to facilitate the direct access of indigenous communities to the resources of the FVC.

We suggest including within its conceptualization that:

"The resources of the Fund must ensure the strengthening of the capacities of indigenous communities," local communities and Afro-descendant communities of South America and the Caribbean on concerted preparation in accordance with self-determination for direct access when deemed necessary with the constant and permanent support of accredited entities or other governing bodies "

Requirements

B)Requirements

1. The policy must recognize the effective participation of indigenous communities, local communities and Afro-descendant communities of South America and the Caribbean.

It is required to include the specific features highlighted in bold;

V "Requirements"

(..) 5.4. "Indigenous communities, local communities and Afro-descendant communities of South America and the Caribbean and comprehensive planning"

"56. Accredited entities may include technical or financial support as part of the activities financed by the FVC for the preparation of plans, strategies or other activities aimed at strengthening the consideration and participation of indigenous communities in climate change actions. This may include a variety of initiatives designed, for example, to

(...)

(d) To strengthen the capacity of indigenous communities to participate in the design, development and planning of programs;

and (e) Strengthen the capacity of government agencies providing services to indigenous communities, local communities and Afro-descendant communities of South America and the Caribbean, provided they are considered by such communities as guarantors of rights.

"57. Indigenous communities' local communities and Afro-descendant communities of South America and the Caribbean can require support for several initiatives, which must be taken into account by the FVC." These include: (a) support for indigenous communities' development priorities through programs and projects (such as community-driven development programs and locally administered social funds or projects that provide for their own and climate resilient forms of development) developed by indigenous communities, local communities and Afro-descendant

Communities of South America and the Caribbean or Governments in cooperation with indigenous communities .

C. **INCIDENCE**

1. Suggestions for improving policy:

1.1 Monitoring based on communities and other local actors,

Indigenous communities ' policy, local communities Afro-descendant communities South America and the Caribbean should promote the implementation of community-based monitoring and other local stakeholders in the development of all plans, programs and projects to be financed by the Green Climate Fund.

For the purposes of these contributions, understand as community monitoring that involves a permanent involvement of communities from the design of processes, their development and decision-making within the activities and projects for which this monitoring is advanced. These guidelines for example can be used as input for REDD +, payment processes for environmental services and can mainly result in the participatory inclusion of communities in the face of compliance with the various agreements that, in matters of climate change, are advancing each country. (Example: NDCs, Paris Agreement etc.)

Community-based monitoring provides for analysis of the ethnic variable in the territories, the design and application of biodiversity, the control and monitoring of forests to prevent social processes of environmental deterioration, and allows the opening of spaces of participation and involvement to those communities and other actors who have knowledge of the territory at the local level. There is a consensus that community monitoring is an important adjunct to participatory national forest monitoring and, moreover, can effectively support the MRV for REDD + (Skutsch et al. 2014;) Balderas & Skutsch 2015).

1.2 Backup through safeguards.

The ancestral and collective rights for Afro-descendant communities of South America and the Caribbean are natural and collective, thus, the construction and implementation of safeguards must be subordinate or oriented by such rights, which are described below;

The Afro-descendant communities of South America and the Caribbean have a system of government articulated and energized by own authorities and instruments of self-government, own right, ancestral justice, which must be strengthened as a mechanism that strengthens the implementation of politics.

The final decision on the implementation of an initiative of the fund in territories of Afro-descendant communities of South America and the Caribbean goes through the opinion that collectively and, through its own authorities and system of government, the

black people establishes. Cultural objection applies if the potential damage to cultural integrity is irreversible.

Information about the policy is not comprehensible to Afro-descendant communities in South America and the Caribbean, and access to it is very limited, therefore, it is necessary to develop mechanisms that promote and facilitate the access and understanding of the language and dynamics of the Fund, to ensure that decisions are taken on the basis of clear and reliable information.

When an irreparable risk is evidence on the rights of Afro-descendant communities in South America and the Caribbean, it should not be expected to have an absolute scientific concept to take measures to avoid them. The importance of the application of the precautionary principle.

Ancestral knowledge and natural resources have an intrinsic and interdependent relationship, and are the basis for building the territory, ethnicity and culture, that is to say, are the cell to create and re-create community life, therefore, they are not the subject of appropriation (individual ownership) nor can they develop patents on them, because they are collective cultural patrimony of Afro-descendant communities in South America and the Caribbean.

1.3. Resources and budgets.

In accordance with all that has been expressed throughout this document, the Board of directors of the Green Climate Fund is required, to extend the number 6.10 allocation of resources and budgets, stay and integrating the bold and indicated below:

Since the justification for this policy is to promote the impact of indigenous communities, the process of approving the project may consider providing additional weight to projects with well-designed components to promote the elements of indigenous communities. The strengthening of the capacities needed to achieve direct access and effective resource management must be decisively supported.

