

## Tarapoto Declaration

### **A compromise and an action plan for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) in Peru**

We, national and regional representatives, convened in the city of Tarapoto, summoned by the Seminar Workshop on Strategies to Implement Mechanisms to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation REDD in Peru (15, 16, 17 October 2008), organized by the Regional Government of San Martín and the Peruvian REDD Group:

#### Considering that:

- Climate change is an inexorable process which has negative effects – globally and locally – over biodiversity, poverty increase and will affect economically and socially the development processes of emergent countries like Peru.
- Peru is considered as one of the most vulnerable countries to the negative impacts of global climate change; therefore, it will be one of the most affected in the short term.
- Deforestation of coastal, Andean and Amazonian forests is the cause of, at least, 47% of the greenhouse gas emissions in Peru. Deforestation favors the decrease in the provision of environmental services supplied by forest ecosystems (biodiversity, storage potential and carbon sequestration, hydrologic regulation, climate regulation, among others), thus generating a vicious circle between deforestation and poverty.
- The current priorities regarding national development and the incoherent legislation trigger the underlying causes of deforestation, especially in the Amazon area.

#### We declare:

- The mechanism to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation REDD is a real, concrete opportunity we have at hand to contribute to improve the effectiveness of the conservation and sustainable management of forests in Peru. In order to take better advantage of this opportunity, it is necessary to previously resolve legal, institutional, technical, social and financial issues, so as to make these initiatives viable.
- It is necessary to construct – with the most comprehensive participation of the public and private sectors, the civil society and other interested stakeholders – a national stand regarding the deforestation problem, its effects on climate change and REDD's implementation mechanisms in the country, which can be presented in the international negotiation processes our country participates in.
- It is necessary to implement REDD pilot projects in Amazonian and non-Amazonian scenarios, with different kinds of actors (local communities, indigenous population, forest concessionaires, land owners, etc.). These experiences are to generate learned lessons and knowledge that positively contribute towards the construction of the national REDD implementation strategy in Peru, and are also to serve as basis to

foster replicability of positive experiences. Priority is to be given to any activity that fosters the generation of information on how to overcome methodological, financial, political, legislative, social and technical challenges of such activities.

- It is necessary to implement a deforestation monitoring system at national and regional levels, which allows the quantification of non-emitted carbon.
- Priority is to be given to the participation of local communities as of the early stages of the design of REDD activities and it is to be kept throughout the project implementation process, emphasizing their participation in the monitoring activities. REDD is to respect the rights of indigenous populations, who are to have the opportunity to decide their participation in REDD with prior knowledge, based on their life plans and on the economic and ecological zoning of their lands.
- REDD is to be seen as one of the options for financial sustainability for the conservation of forests in Peru. REDD would contribute to ensure the economic, social and environmental benefits derived from forest conservation, both for local populations as well as for the country and the planet. The creation of public-private partnerships is to be promoted in order to attain the required financing to fund the efforts for holistically knowing the implications of REDD.
- It is necessary to identify, quantify and mitigate the factors that threaten the country's forest cover. Therefore, priority is to be given to the regions in the country that are most threatened by deforestation for the implementation of pilot projects.
- It is necessary to strengthen capacities regarding REDD at local, regional and national levels, as key management and negotiation factor. Furthermore, institutionalism is to be strengthened by developing an organizational culture for effective management and negotiation.

Therefore, the undersigned, agree to:

1. Promote public policies favorable to REDD, articulated to sectoral policies.
2. Promote the construction of the country's position in international negotiations. This process is to be comprehensively participative, considering an articulation among national, regional and local levels.
3. Strengthen the land use processes. Ecological and Economic Zoning, forest management and official land register in order to make a better use of the land. Likewise, to consolidate the decentralization process for management democratization of forests, articulated to sustainable development.
4. Prioritize the conservation and sustainable management of forests in Peru, since its conversion to other non-sustainable uses is a tangible loss of opportunities for the sustainable development of the Country.
5. Joint effort to arrive at decentralized institutionality and coherent legislation in order to make the REDD initiatives in the country viable.
6. Strengthen the capacities at national, regional and local levels in the implementation of REDD initiatives.