

## **IUCN Statement on behalf of International Organizations observer**

**FCPF PA12 Nov 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Thank you co-chair, assembly participants and FMT for the opportunity to deliver these remarks on behalf of International Organizations' observers.

Congratulations to the participants under the Readiness Fund and the Carbon Fund for their efforts to move forward with the implementation of policy and measures for achieving robust and reliable emissions reductions from the forest and land sector. We would like to provide some remarks regarding aspects that were highlighted as part of the progress in 2019, and in the context of the extension of the Readiness Fund to 2022.

We heard about examples of progress improving the enabling environment for REDD+ as part of the readiness work including the adoption of policies and regulatory frameworks. To ensure efficacy of these efforts it will be key to generate linkages across, and through, sector and government levels, interest and agendas of all stakeholders, in a way that ensures that all forces pursue common goals and the permanence of REDD+ action. One way of generating these linkages is through landscape approaches that provide an overarching view to address deforestation and degradation drivers in a comprehensive manner not only providing solutions for avoiding deforestation but for sustainable forest management and landscape restoration. Landscape approaches also help reinforce governance aspects that are key for the implementation of REDD+ where communities and indigenous people are involved in dialogue and participatory decision-making, as well as aspects preempting access to rights are meant to be addressed. We encourage countries to reinforce landscape approach perspectives for the implementation of REDD+ for which IUCN would be happy to provide support.

Regarding the value of FCPF countries efforts in the international context, the development of REDD+ strategies represents an unparalleled opportunity to increase ambition for the Paris Agreement given that the elements and building blocks of REDD+ can inform new and more ambitious NDCs with measurable targets and with adaptation elements. REDD+ country teams have the opportunity to take the lead and inspire increased ambition from their national governments to design the new set of NDCs bringing the full mitigation potential from the forest and land use sector which represents 30% of all the mitigation potential to achieve the Paris Agreement.

As explained yesterday, positive outcomes from REDD+ activities beyond carbon emissions sequestration need to be emphasized and brought into different conversations happening

under other international frameworks focused on biodiversity, on land degradation and on SDGs. Benefits from activities to reduce deforestation and forest degradation translate into carbon benefits but also into biodiversity benefits, restoration, food and water security. These co-benefits under REDD+ schemes are key activities under other platforms, hence the call for REDD+ country teams to seize the immense opportunity to create synergies and coordination to maximize the benefits on the forest and land use sector.

It is an exciting time for the FPCF where the first 3 ERPAs were signed and 15 more are expected to be signed next year. Showcasing impacts of the implementation of activities that materialize result-based payments will be a strong signal of the capacity of the forest and land use sector to deliver on the mitigation potential for the achievement of the Paris Agreement. In addition to the payments provided by the Carbon Fund there is an urgency for raising the role of the private sector both as an investor for carbon outcomes as well as an agent of change for zero deforestation activities and we congratulate the FPCF's efforts to make these connections happen. We also stress the importance of ensuring appropriate benefit sharing. International Organizations have the key role to support implementation of REDD+ from all these perspectives taking advantage of their platforms that unite government and non-governmental actors. IUCN is keen to collaborate with countries as they continue working on effective measures to halt deforestation and degradation, restore landscapes and to sustainably transform rural economies with global benefits for climate change.