

## IUCN Remarks - International Organizations

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Thank you Co-Chairs, Assembly Participants and FMT for the opportunity to deliver these remarks as a representative of International Organizations.

We would like to start by congratulating participants under the Readiness Fund and the Carbon Fund for their continuous efforts to move forward full implementation of policy and on the ground measures for achieving robust and reliable emissions reductions from the forest and land sector.

We would like to acknowledge the efforts made to ensure the sustainability and robustness of emission reductions to be achieved under ER-PDs, and we would like to invite all Participants under the Readiness and Carbon Funds to continue to ensure those efforts catalyze large-scale transformations across land use policies, across sectors and levels of governments. Large scale, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder land use transformations are urgent if we aim REDD+ to accelerate climate action and to contribute to the long-term objectives of the Paris Agreement. This not only means considering coherency across land use policies but also ensure that REDD+ efforts are aligned with other international commitments so that the limited international financial support available for climate action in forests compared to other climate action can be optimized, and IUCN is keen to continue to collaborate with the FCPF and other partners and donors in deploying nature-based solutions as REDD+ and the forest landscape restoration approach.

We want to acknowledge the FMTs continuous support to strengthen and improve MRV capacities in REDD+ countries, and we welcome the allocation in the new Fiscal Year of additional funding towards the closing of the Readiness Fund to continue working on improved MRV capacities. In deploying such efforts, there's the need to ensure they contribute to strengthening national monitoring capacities so that REDD+ implementation is fully deployed in the context on the implementation of the Paris Agreement. While REDD+ has been broadly acknowledged under the Paris Agreement and countries recognize the importance of forests and deforestation under their Nationally Determined Contributions, NDCs still fail to reflect its full mitigation potential in terms of quantifiable mitigation targets, for both avoided deforestation but also for reduced degradation and other activities encompasses in the '+' and this largely responds to the limited monitoring and reporting capacities in the forest and land sector, as expressed by countries in their NDCs, in addition to the remaining uncertainty on the property of those ERs once paid, all of which will be quite relevant in the next round of revision of NDCs.

The past ten years have been certainly essential to pave the way for long-term transformations in tropical forest countries to reduce and halt deforestation, and the work under the FCPF with the support of the donors has been instrumental to do so. Yet, full implementation of REDD+ results-based activities at the scale and pace needed on the ground is still to happen. The IPCC Special report emphasizes once again the importance of the forest sector for achieving the pace and scale of the mitigation required, not only through avoided deforestation but moreover through restoration and improved land management, encompassed in the '+' of REDD+. Landscape approaches that address forces driving deforestation and unsustainable land uses are essential, and ensuring that all the work done under REDD+ readiness is explicitly capitalized under NDCs is urgent, including under the FCPF's exit strategy towards 2020, if we aim its legacy to be sustained in time and fully reflected in efforts for achieving the Paris Agreement.

Regarding the work with the private sector, we are happy to see the FMT and all FCPF Participants continue to support efforts and allocate additional funding to deepen the work required in ensuring a more prominent role of the private sector; not only as investors but also as a key actors for the full implementation of REDD+ activities on the ground. We encourage the FMT and all FCPF Participants to continue working in enabling and supporting public-private partnerships for effectively halting deforestation and moreover to sustainably transform rural economies in tropical countries which, again, needs to be reflected in more ambitious NDCs towards 2020.

Finally, we look forward the first ERPA to be signed. The global climate and forest community has been tirelessly working in the past 10 years in all the enabling conditions for REDD+ implementation, from strengthening technical and monitoring capacities, to strengthening forest governance and respecting rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities under safeguards processes, to designing comprehensive and coherent national REDD+ strategies. The scale of the challenge has been enormous and there's still work to do with countries'

progress varying broadly. Leveraging results-based payments under the Carbon Fund and the Green Climate Fund is the next big step, and is the positive signal that the international community needs for unlocking the untapped mitigation potential of forests and other ecosystems in the next round of NDCs.

Robust and transparent, and fairly negotiated ERPAs will be crucial to deliver such positive message. By acknowledging the hard work that donors, REDD+ countries and the FMT have done during ERPA negotiations, we also need to acknowledge the concerns raised today by Costa Rica and Mexico, and that are common across countries with tropical forests. While having in mind the pilot nature of the Carbon Fund and carbon prices under international markets, we must also recognize the diverging national circumstances and costs of opportunity that achieving long-term negative emissions through ER-PDs entail. As a pilot programme to incentivize emissions reductions through results based payments, the FCPF has been instrumental in informing and shaping multilateral and bilateral instruments for REDD+ Results Based Payments as under the Green Climate Fund. Therefore, its responsiveness to those conditions that will enable REDD+ countries to sustainably achieve the mitigation outcomes committed under ERPAs but also required to ensure a 1.5C degrees world, will be part of the FCPF's legacy.

Thank you,