

Dear members

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank

With attention to: Members, Technical Teams and Observers of the FCPF and
The World Bank and IDB; TAP and international cooperation

With reference to the Caribbean Coast Emission Reduction Programme of Nicaragua (ER-PD Nicaragua), submitted by the Government of Nicaragua to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) on 1st May 2019 and scheduled for discussion in the 20th meeting of the Carbon Fund (FC20), **Fundación del Río would like to denounce the inability of the Government of Nicaragua to comply the environmental and social (ESS) standards established by the World Bank and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.**

Concerns of ESS achievement arise particularly to those related to: ESS5 (Land acquisition, restriction on land use and involuntary resettlement), ESS6 (Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources), ESS7 (Indigenous peoples / Sub-Saharan African historically underserved traditional local communities), respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, and the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, indigenous people and local communities.

Since April 2018, Nicaragua has been immersed in a profound institutional crisis, due the progressive wakening of the country's democratic institutions and the elimination of the mechanisms of citizen participation and accountability established in national laws. This situation, together with repeated violations of human rights and civil liberties, accumulated tensions that emerged as social mobilizations of different sectors (mainly youth, women and farmers organizations), many of which took place in the areas of intervention of the ER-PD Nicaragua. Moreover, the deficient government response to the forest fire that affected the core zone of the *Indio Maíz Biological Reserve* in year 2018, and the entry into force of reforms to the social security system with no consultation, resulted in a series of civic demonstrations that were brutally repressed by the Government of Nicaragua through the national police corps and paramilitary shock forces, using disproportionate force against civil and peaceful demonstrations.

These events have been widely documented and reported by Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and Amnesty International (AI). These reports agreed that the government authorities' response to the wave of citizen protests, through joint actions between police, paramilitary forces and other pro-government armed groups, used excessive force and violated the international law and the human rights¹. Among the broadly documented human rights violations are: murders, extrajudicial executions, forced disappearances, obstruction of access to medical care, ill-treatment, torture and sexual violence in detention centers, violations of the freedoms of peaceful assembly and expression, as well as the criminalization of social leaders, students, human rights defenders, journalists, doctors and farmers, many of whom live in the Program's intervention areas. Government's actions also include the arbitrary cancellation of legal personality / juristic person of nine non-governmental organizations, out of which two are environmental civil society organizations working for the protection of the *Indio Maíz Biological Reserve*.

¹[OHCHR Report](#): Human Rights Violations and Abuses in the Contexto of Protests in Nicaragua.. 18 April – 18 August 2018. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Geneva, August 2018.

[IACHR Report](#): Gross Human Rights Violations in the Context of Social Protests in Nicaragua. Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). 21 of June, 2018.

[AI Report](#): Instilling Terror: from lethal force to persecution in Nicaragua. Amnesty International, July, 2018.

Additionally, Nicaraguan government actions have been condemned by various resolutions of regional and international bodies, including at least three resolutions of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS)², one Resolution on "The Situation in Nicaragua" approved by the OAS General Assembly³, and one resolution of the United Nations Human Rights Council entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua"⁴.

Currently, the basic human rights of all citizens are suspended, pro-government irregular armed groups continue to act under the protection and acquiescence of the powers of the State of Nicaragua, establishing a de facto state of emergency. The model of alliances and consensus has been broken and the conditions for democratic governance have been lost. We believe that as long as these conditions remain, there are no guarantees for the proper implementation of the Caribbean Coast Emission Reduction Program of Nicaragua.

Therefore, **we request the suspension of the Caribbean Coast Emission Reduction Programme of Nicaragua until adequate governance conditions are restored.** We denounce events described above and submit this request due our role as an active environmental NGO, who has been working since year 1990 with the territorial governments Rama Kriol in the protection of forests, biodiversity and the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities living in the core zone and buffer areas of the *Indio Maíz Biosphere Reserve*.

Do not hesitate to contact us, shall you have any questions regarding our request. We are at your disposal in providing any additional information, based on our extensive experience and collaboration with indigenous and local communities in the area of intervention of the Caribbean Coast Emission Reduction Program of Nicaragua.

Sincerely,



Msc. Amaru Ruiz Aleman

Presidente de Fundación del Rio

² Las resoluciones: CP/RES. 1108 (2172/18), sobre "La situación en Nicaragua", del 18 de julio de 2018, y CP/RES. 1109 (2175/18), "Grupo de Trabajo para Nicaragua", del 2 de agosto de 2018, y la resolución CP/RES. 1128 (2231/19), "La situación en Nicaragua", del 21 de mayo de 2019;

³ http://www.oas.org/es/centro_noticias/comunicado_prensa.asp?sCodigo=D-014/19

⁴ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G19/098/48/PDF/G1909848.pdf?OpenElement>