



Alianza de Pueblos Indígenas y Afro descendientes de Nicaragua **“APIAN”**

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Open letter to the Board of the Green Climate Fund in its session number 27

(translation of the Spanish original, sent today)

The Alliance of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants of Nicaragua (APIAN), formed by authorities and community and territorial leaders of the Autonomous Regions, the Special Regime Zone and the Pacific, Central and Northern Nicaragua belonging to the Chorotegas-indigenous peoples, Cacaopera or Matagalpa, Nahoá or Nahuatl, Sutiaba, Miskitu, Ulwa, Mayangna, Rama, and the Afro-descendant Garifuna and Creole/Kriol peoples, greets you at the same time as we submit a petition so that you may reconsider the actions you are taking in the context of meeting No. 27 for the approval of a funding request (FP146) for the "Bio-CLIMA Project. Integrated climate action to reduce deforestation and strengthen resilience in BOSAWÁS and Rio San Juan Biospheres" presented by the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) on behalf of the Government of Nicaragua.

Members of the Board of Directors of the Green Climate Fund, we would like to express that although in our country Nicaragua there is excellent legislation for environmental conservation due to the existence of the Law of Autonomy and the Law of Territorial Demarcation of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Territories, This does not mean that the public policies that have been developed by the national government have respected its own legislation, because they have left us in total abandonment of the fundamental rights of our indigenous and Afro-descendent communities that have been invaded by colonists, who have deforested our forests and killed community members who needed precautionary measures from the IACHR.

The Biosphere of Rio San Juan and Bosawas has been heavily invaded and exploited by colonists and economic sectors with the permission of the national government, which has allowed them to disrespect the rights of communal property of indigenous and afro-descendant peoples. Furthermore, no project has free prior and informed consultation with indigenous and afro-descendant communities that are owners of full ownership of their lands and natural resources, as described in the communal titles granted by the Nicaraguan government to the peoples. Rather, the national government promotes parallel governments in accordance with its interests that threaten the self-determination of our peoples.

In view of the great difficulties we have in conserving our resources and protecting our forests against the irrational exploitation of our resources, it is urgent that we reconsider the decision to be made about our forests.

The Nicaraguan government has demonstrated that it cannot protect our communal lands, our forests, or our indigenous and Afro-descendent population. This has been demonstrated in multiple projects that have been financed through MARENA, such as the biological corridor; rather, the financing of these projects has affected and devastated our forests, which today are in deplorable conditions that expose us to more damage as a result of the deforestation that has occurred even in areas of great spiritual value and conservation for our peoples, which in turn guarantees the food security of our peoples.

On the other hand, the indigenous peoples are still demanding the sanitation of our communal lands, a process that the national government has shown no interest or willingness to carry out. With these funds that they intend to approve, there are no guarantees that our forests will be protected, but rather they expose us to more predation as has occurred with the burning of the Indian Corn Reserve and the deforestation of BOSAWAS.

We thank you for your consideration of our petition, hoping that you will reconsider your decision to finance this project in the conditions in which our country and our communal territories are currently found.

Without further reference, we subscribe atte.

Coordination Team

Alliance of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants of Nicaragua - APIAN