

Marrakesh Letter on REDD+, November 14, 2016.

Minister José Sarney Filho, Minister of Environment

Minister Blairo Maggi, Minister of Agriculture

Minister José Serra, Minister of Foreign Relations

Ambassador José Antônio Marcondes – climate change negotiator for Brazil

The signatories of this letter recognize Brazil's great contribution to reaching the Paris Agreement in 2015, as well its quick ratification in the National Congress. Discussions at COP 22 have turned toward the implementation of the Paris Agreement and this requires improving the strategies for the implementation of the NDCs of Brazil and the rest of the signatories.

Brazil can, once again, become the protagonist of innovative mechanisms in the UNFCCC, particularly as regards developing a low-carbon economy. In this new context, in order to maintain this leadership, Brazil needs to revisit the issue and reevaluate its position in relation to REDD+. More specifically, we refer to paragraph 34 of the Brazilian submission to COP 22.

The new scenario will call for multiple instruments in order for us to be able to achieve our NDC, through national and international market mechanisms. In this way, the co-benefits of a low-carbon policy will be captured by society as a whole. There are short and mid-term measures that should be taken so that the country can take advantage of opportunities for finance, facilitating the flow of national and international private sector resources for REDD+ and restoration and reforestation. This is in alignment with Brazil's effort to attract investment in the country. We believe that Brazil needs innovative financial mechanisms to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in the Amazon and other biomes, and foment restoration of degraded lands and reforestation throughout the national territory. This will be essential to achieving the Brazilian NDC.

Regardless of the success of the Amazon Fund, it does not seem prudent to us to exclude REDD+ and restoration and reforestation from the new Sustainable Development Mechanism, considering the targets of Brazil's NDC and the need for increasing global ambition. This demand has already been expressed by all of the Amazon states, in writing, in 2009, 2015 and 2016. A large number of non-governmental organizations have also called, on various occasions, for a revision of the Brazilian position. Networks of organizations such as the Brazil Coalition for Climate, Forests and Agriculture, which unites more than 150 business, civil society and academic organizations, have taken the same position¹.

¹ As stated in the Coalition position of 10/25/2016:

<http://coalizaobr.com.br/2016/index.php/posicionamentos/item/471-posicionamento-da-coalizao-brasil-sobre-redd>

It is essential for Brazil to maintain alignment with the rest of the tropical forest countries, which support innovative financial mechanisms for REDD+ and restoration and reforestation.

Research institutions the world over continue to emphasize the importance of forest conservation and restoration for achieving the targets of the Paris Agreement. There are no technical, scientific or methodological obstacles to including REDD+ and restoration and reforestation in the SDM.

In light of this, we request:

1. Revision of Brazil's position on the role of REDD+ in the market negotiation at COP 22, and
2. Initiating a process of dialogue for the construction of a new Brazilian position on REDD+. This dialogue should involve all sectors of society, be scientifically and technically based, be transparent, seeking to widen the country's horizons for the opportunities offered by climate agreements.

We support two initiatives that were proposed during COP 22:

- Discussion in the Brazilian Forum for Climate Change (proposed by its Executive Secretary Alfredo Sirkis);
- Discussion among the Federal Government, National Congress and civil society – companies, academy, social movement and non-governmental organizations (proposed by Senator Jorge Viana, with support from Senators Fernando Bezerra, Lídice da Mata and Vanessa Grazziotin; of the Joint Committee on Climate Change and Congressional Environmental Caucus, with the support of federal representatives Ricardo Tripoli, Nilto Tatto, Bruno Covas and Evandro Gussi.

Sincerely,

FAS
IPAM
Idesam
Biofilica
Ecodata
Arapyau
SOS Mata Atlântica
UERJ
CI Brasil
ABEMA
Masterpan

APREMAVI
APREC
Imazon
Instituto Ecológica
Mater Natura
Senator Jorge Viana
Senator Fernando Bezerra
Senator Vanessa Grazziotin
Representative Bruno Covas
Representative Ricardo Tripolli
Representative Nilton Tatto