

PANAMA (CITY) – 3 - 4 OCTOBER 2017

CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO CIVIL SOCIETY WORKSHOP: ENSURING THAT CLIMATE FINANCE BENEFITS LOCAL COMMUNITIES



Dear colleagues and friends,

With the signing and ratification of the Paris Agreement, Latin American countries have committed to moving towards a low carbon and climate resilient sustainable development. At the same time, developed countries, in recognition of past responsibilities and the needs of the poorest countries, have committed themselves to increasing their contributions to the financing of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities. These funds, channeled through national, regional and international financial institutions, have played an important role in financing the way to a green economy.

However, experience to date has shown that some projects funded by international climate funds or registered under the Clean Development Mechanism, far from benefiting local communities, have led to serious environmental and social conflicts, sometimes culminating in human rights violations. These conflicts are largely due to the inadequate planning of such projects, stemming from poor processes of consultation and free, prior, and informed consent that prevent meeting the needs of communities and incorporating local knowledge in the design of projects. While the objective of climate finance is to promote a paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development, funds often support non-innovative or obsolete technologies, which are not effective in the fight against climate change and delay the implementation of urgently needed solutions.

After 2020, the main climate finance tools could be the Green Climate Fund (GCF), established during the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in 2010 in Cancún, and the Sustainable Development Mechanism, created by the recently approved Paris Agreement.

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Specific Workshop objectives:

- Share and discuss current climate finance policies at the global, regional and national levels; elements and tools available to ensure that climate finance is effective and benefits communities; latest progress in negotiations on the subject; latest relevant developments in Central America and Mexico, including through a multi stakeholder panel.
- Share experiences on the impacts of climate change mitigation projects implemented in the region with international funds, with special emphasis on those promoted by the Clean Development Mechanism and supported by funds from the Green Climate Fund.

Who should attend?

- Representatives of NGOs and local communities working on climate finance or who can share experience regarding climate finance projects
- Academic and research institutions

How much will it cost to participate?

- Participation is free of charge
- Coffee and lunch is provided
- Participants can apply for travel expenses and accommodation costs (only limited budget available)

Duration: 2 days

Number Participants: 30-40

Language: this workshop will be in Spanish

