

# Indigenous Peoples in Ecuador reject REDD

by Chris Lang  
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CONFENIAE, the confederation of indigenous peoples from the Ecuadorian Amazon (the Ecuadorian member organization of COICA), issued a statement on 3 August 2009 which strongly rejects REDD:

“We reject the negotiations on our forests, such as REDD projects, because they try to take away our freedom to manage our resources and also because they are not a real solution to climate change, on the contrary, they only make it worse.”

The full statement is below, and can be downloaded in English ([pdf file, 113 KB](#)) or Spanish ([pdf file, 340 KB](#)).

## STATEMENT

Unión Base, Puyo August 3rd, 2009

**CONFENIAE REJECTS ALL KINDS OF ENVIRONMENTAL NEGOCIATIONS ON FORESTS AND EXTRACTIVE POLICIES THAT DAMAGE THE TERRITORIES OF THE AMAZONIAN INDIGENOUS NATIONALITIES AND PEOPLES OF ECUADOR**

## CONSIDERING

That the Right to Plurinationality and Sumak Kawsay, enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic, and the Right to Self-Determination of the Ancestral Nationalities and Peoples, consecrated in international instruments like Convention 169 of the ILO [and] the universal United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, exist to guarantee that human beings and nature live together in a world in suitable conditions, and that they can develop based on the principles of solidarity, reciprocity [and] the conservation of the territorial space as a whole, for the security and survival of the present and future generations; and to guarantee a healthy environment, free of pollution, repression and the imposition of government policies on indigenous peoples;

That all these policies and extractive activities and negotiations on the forests and biodiversity in our Ancestral Territories will have unfathomable consequences, including the extinction of our identity as Ancestral Nations, [our] loss of the control and management of our territories, which would subsequently be managed by the State, foreign countries, multinationals, REDD negotiators or Carbon Traders; which would result in unprecedented misery, hunger and extreme poverty, just like what is happening right now to our indigenous brothers and sisters in the Northern Amazon of Ecuador because of geopolitical, economic and commercial interests;

## RESSOLVES:

1. To warn and communicate to all the grassroots organizations of the structure of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon – CONFENIAE, which is comprised of centers, communities, associations, federations, organizations and nationalities, in the framework of the Resolution and Mandate of the Congress held on May 28-31, 2009, that the Regional Organization of the Ecuadorian Amazon, will not permit interference nor representation, nor allow spokespersons to discuss nor dialogue, let alone take steps to negotiate in national or

international forums our Natural Resources that exist in our Territories.

2. The CONFENIAE will not negotiate nor dialogue without the consent of the grassroots on the issues of Oil Extraction Activities, Mining, Hydroelectric Dams, the SocioBosque Plan, REDD business, Environmental Services, etc., since certain entities, like the Energy, Environment and Population institution, the World Bank and Carbon Traders in alliance with Latin American governments are trying to negotiate the lives of the Indigenous Nationalities and Peoples [and] undermine our Rights to our Territories.

3. We recognize that climate change is a problem and we demand that Annex I countries acknowledge their responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions, [and,] therefore, diminish the burning of fossil fuels, whose extraction has caused deforestation in the Amazon and grave social and environmental problems in our territories.

4. We reject the negotiations on our forests, such as REDD projects, because they try to take away our freedom to manage our resources and also because they are not a real solution to climate change, on the contrary, they only make it worse.

5. We inform COICA, of which we are a part, that, as Ecuadorian Amazonian representatives with the right to voice and vote, that no person, entity, NGO, etc., is authorized to speak on our behalf in favor or against any issue without our knowledge and participation.

Sincerely,

Tito Puanchir.

PRESIDENT â€œCONFENIAEâ€•

## PRONUNCIAMIENTO

União Base, Puyo 03 agosto 2009.

**LA CONFENIAE RECHAZA TODO TIPO DE NEGOCIACIONES AMBIENTALES, SOBRE LOS BOSQUES Y POLÃ•TICAS EXTRACTIVAS, QUE AFECTEN LOS TERRITORIOS DE LAS NACIONALIDADES AMAZÃ“NICAS Y PUEBLOS INDÃ•GENAS DEL ECUADOR**

## CONSIDERANDO

Que, el Derecho a la Plurinacionalidad y el Sumak Kawsay, expresados en la ConstituciÃ³n de la RepÃºblica, y el Derecho a la AutodeterminaciÃ³n de las Nacionalidades y Pueblos Ancestrales, que rezan los Instrumentos Internacionales como el Convenio 169 de la OIT, la DeclaraciÃ³n Universal de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Derechos de los Pueblos IndÃ•genas, estÃ¡n para garantizar la vivencia y convivencia entre los seres humanos y la naturaleza, en un mundo de aceptables condiciones, un desarrollo basado en los principios de la solidaridad, reciprocidad,

conservaciÃ³n de todo el espacio territorial, para la seguridad y existencia de generaciones, presentes y venideras, y para garantizar un ambiente sano, libre de contaminaciÃ³n, de represiÃ³n, de sumisiÃ³n por parte de las polÃ-ticas de los ciertos gobiernos hacia los pueblos indÃ-genes.

Que, toda polÃtica y actividad extractiva y de negociaciÃ³n de los bosques y biodiversidad en nuestros Territorios Ancestrales causarÃ¡ inimaginables implicaciones, entre ellas la extinciÃ³n de la identidad de las Naciones Ancestrales, la perdida del control y el manejo de nuestros territorios que pasarÃ¡n a ser manejados por el Estado, paÃ-ses extranjeros, transnacionales, negociadores de REDD o comerciantes de Carbono, todo lo cual devendrÃ¡ en miseria, hambre y pobreza extrema nunca antes vistas, tal como ahora ocurren con nuestros hermanos indÃ-genes en la Amazonia norte del Ecuador por intereses geopolÃ-ticos, econÃ³micos y comerciales.

#### RESUELVE:

1. Alertar y comunicar a todas las bases de la estructura de la ConfederaciÃ³n de las Nacionalidades IndÃ-genes de la Amazonia Ecuatoriana -CONFENIAE, constituidas en los Centros, Comunidades, Asociaciones, Federaciones, Organizaciones y Nacionalidades, en el marco de la ResoluciÃ³n y Mandato del Congreso de 28-31 de mayo del 2009, que la OrganizaciÃ³n Regional de la AmazonÃ-a Ecuatoriana, no permitirÃ¡, la intromisiÃ³n, ni representaciÃ³n, ni interlocutores para que discutan, dialoguen, aun mas, den paso a la negociaciÃ³n de nuestro Bienes Naturales existentes en nuestros Territorios en espacios nacionales o internacionales.
2. La CONFENIAE no negociarÃ¡ ni dialogarÃ¡ sin consentimiento de sus bases, sobre temas de negociaciones para Actividades Extractivas Petroleras, Mineras, HidroelÃ©ctricas, Plan Socio Bosque, negocios REDD, Servicios Ambientales, etc, ya que ciertos organismos, como la instituciÃ³n EnergÃ-a Ambiente y PoblaciÃ³n, Banco Mundial y los Mercaderes de Carbono, conjuntamente en alianza con los gobiernos Latinoamericanos, pretenden negociar sobre la vida de las Nacionalidades y Pueblos IndÃ-genes afectando nuestros Derechos Territoriales.
3. Reconocemos el problema del Cambio ClimÃ¡tico y exigimos a los paÃ-ses del Anexo 1 que reconozcan su responsabilidad en cuanto a las emisiones de gases con efecto invernadero, disminuyendo por tanto la quema de combustibles fÃ³siles, cuya extracciÃ³n ha causado la deforestaciÃ³n de la AmazonÃ-a y graves problemas sociales y ambientales en nuestros territorios.
4. Rechazamos las negociaciones sobre nuestros bosques, como los son los proyectos REDD, ya que pretenden quitarnos el libre manejo sobre nuestros recursos y porque ademÃ¡s no son una soluciÃ³n definitiva al problema del cambio climÃ¡tico, al contrario, solo lo empeora.
5. Comunicamos a la COICA, de la cual somos parte, como representantes amazÃ³nicos ecuatorianos con derecho a voz y voto, que ninguna persona, organismo, ONG, etc, estÃ¡ autorizado a pronunciarse a nuestro nombre a favor o en contra de cualquier tema del cual no tengamos conocimiento ni participaciÃ³n.

Atentamente,

Tito Puanchir.

PRESIDENTE â€œCONFENIAEâ€•

Ines Shiguango

Vicepresidenta "CONFENIAE"

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Source: [www.redd-monitor.org/2009/08/11/indigenous-peoples-in-ecuador-reject-redd](http://www.redd-monitor.org/2009/08/11/indigenous-peoples-in-ecuador-reject-redd)