Office of Climate Change & Development  
Department of Prime Minister & NEC  
P.O Box 639, Waigani  
N.C.D  

Attention: Dr. Wari Iamo – Acting Executive Director  

Dear Dr. Iamo,  

Re: STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND REDD ISSUES.  

Further to our letter of May 10 2010 concerning the level of consultation with the Civil Society Organizations on Climate Change and REDD (which you have not responded to), we would like to bring to your attention again additional concerns (letter attached).  

In that letter the Eco-Forestry Forum raised concerns regarding the level and the seriousness of consultation with the NGOs and the Civil Society Organizations to finalize key policy documents regarding Climate Change and REDD+ implementation in PNG through the Low Carbon Development Strategy. To date we have not formally received any response to that letter. We have come to a conclusion that you do not take NGO involvement seriously.  

Despite your lack of response to serious concerns we have raised, we have shown commitment by attending meetings organized by OCCD as observers only, even when we were invited at the 11th hour, and I bet you will agree with me. We have since the time of Dr. Theo Yasause requested the government through the OCCD (as it is now called) for formal invitation to participate. Your staff have made a number of commitments to write that letter. The then Deputy Secretary of DEC Gwen Sissiou made a commitment publicly at the request of our Executive Director, Thomas Paka for an official invitation of EFF and its members to be represented on all the Technical Working Group meetings. Joe Pokana in a number of email correspondences mentioned that CSO invitation was open etc. However, we still insist that we are officially invited so that we can internally arrange and nominate people to represent EFF in the different TWGs. The attendance of EFF members in meetings currently is an interim arrangement awaiting the official invitation. Since EFF is a network organization, our governance requirements warrants us to insist on an official invitation.  

The Forum wants to be an effective stakeholder among others in the REDD and Climate Change debate in PNG. As mentioned in the letter attached, the Forum notes that the linkages between deforestation, development and poverty are complex. Weak governance
and poor institutional capacity as well as inadequate mechanisms for effective participation of local communities in land-use decisions, could seriously compromise the delivery of both local and global benefits and the long term sustainability of REDD+ investments.

While the issues we raised in our last letter remained unanswered for reasons only known to your Office, we would like to point out a number of other issues and concerns. We were invited on the 21st of September, as usual in the last minute, to discuss;

a) The National Joint Program under the UN-REDD, and
b) REDD+ Project Guidelines.

In that meeting, where the documents were also distributed, we were asked to provide comments by the 1st of October. How could we do that within a short period of time? This is really doing injustice to the subject matter and the stakeholders, who I believe want to see a successful REDD+ implementation in the country.

In that meeting we noted a number of issues we would like to bring to your attention.

McKinsey Consulting Company’s Involvement.
While we have been verbally told of McKinsey’s role in the country as Technical Advisors, they were seen to be acting like OCCD or DEC staff, answering questions relating to the processes of REDD implementation. We would have loved to see OCCD staff or DEC staff taking a lead in the discussions. This leaves us with the conclusion that OCCD and DEC does have a capacity issue that has not been admitted. It would be interesting to know when the McKinsey contract expires.

Submission of NJP without Completing the Proper Consultation Process.
During the meeting, we were told that comments for the NJP were due by 1st of October 2010. While we are in the process of preparing our comments, we have also heard that that the NJP was submitted to the UNREDD Secretariat and 3 UN Agencies on the 21st of September. If this is true than the consultation with the other stakeholders was only a formality. As we have maintained, such important documents needs thorough review by all concerned stakeholders by allowing us ample time.

We, therefore will, as the UN-REDD Policy Board Member representing CSOs in the Asia and Pacific OPPOSE the proposal if our concerns are not adequately addressed.

As a way forward on this issue, we would like to request the Office of Climate Change and Development to formally invite and recognize the Eco-forestry Forum as a central agency that coordinates NGO and Civil Society and local communities work on climate change and REDD+

This will help PNG being more focussed and inclusive and promotes the true spirit of partnership and participation.

Yours faithfully,
Kenn Mondiai  
Chairman  

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PNG EFF Members  
UNREDD Secretariat  
PNG Forest Authority  
Department of Environment & Conservation