

FP055 - Poverty, Reforestation, Energy and Climate Change - PROEZA (Paraguay/FAO)

CSO comments on the project given as intervention during the 18th GCF Board Meeting, October 2017

- We welcome parts of this project, particularly the intended work with the poorer sectors of the country in Component I as well the potential positive impacts on the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and other local communities. We also welcome Component III, which focuses on good governance and law enforcement and could help increase the capacity of the Paraguay government to define policies and actions in response to climate change. We recommend that the successful implementation of Component III should precede the implementation of the other components.
- However, the board should not approve Component 2 until the Eucalyptus plantations for bioenergy/timber are excluded from the proposal. Eucalyptus species is an alien and invasive species in Paraguay. As the Secretariat's review states, there are significant biodiversity risks associated with the large-scale use of exotic species in afforestation and reforestation projects. The assumptions made on climate mitigation and adaptation - partially based on the establishment of Eucalyptus plantations - should also be reviewed. The mitigation benefits of plantations under Component II are highly questionable, since a large part of medium scale plantations will be used for bioenergy and timber production purposes.
- We commend the engagement of FAO and the Minister of Planning for Social and Economic Development of Paraguay with the National Federation of Indigenous Peoples' Organization in Paraguay. However, we want to clarify that the initial socialization process with indigenous peoples must not be equated with the process of Free, Prior and Informed Consent. FAO should define an FPIC process as soon as the project is approved, with the vision and position of the indigenous peoples involved in all aspects of the project.
- Finally, the specific measures taken to ensure the involvement of women and their equal access to information and technical assistance during the implementation phase should be further defined.