

Katoomba Meeting 2009

Cuiabá Declaration

During April 1-4 2009, 1,400 people – including Governors of five states in the Brazilian Amazon, the Governor of the Department of Loreto in Peru, the Governor of the Department of Santa Cruz in Bolivia, State and municipal legislators, mayors, representatives of Brazilian government agencies, business leaders, rural producers, indigenous peoples, local communities, traditional populations, family farmers, scholars, social movements, and non-governmental organizations, among others – gathered in Cuiabá and participated in the XIV Katoomba Meeting to discuss proposals and experiences related to the reduction of deforestation through payments for environmental services. The institutions signing this declaration arrived at a consensus on the positions and recommendations listed below.

Considering that:

- climate change has been proven to represent a grave threat to the environment, society and the economy, and that forests play a key role in climate stabilization and provision of environmental services;
- Brazil has been a key protagonist in the international negotiations over climate change;
- the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties (CoP15) in Copenhagen is approaching and this CoP should define the conditions for the negotiations on Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in the Climate Convention;
- this theme is of special national interest to Brazil;
- the targets for reduced deforestation set forth by Brazil and the creation of the Amazon Fund represent a historic milestone in the contexts of national and international environmental policy;
- the responsibility of the Federal Government to prevent and confront deforestation is shared with the States, as stated in the Law for the Management of Public Forests (*Lei de Gestão de Florestas Públicas*);
- the amount of funds necessary to support the targets for reduced deforestation exceeds the current expectations for fundraising within the Amazon Fund;

The institutional and individual signatories of this letter present the following recommendations on the theme of climate change and forests:

1. The elaboration of Brazil's national position should be the result of an agile process, yet one that is open, participatory and transparent, through dialog with the interested stakeholders;
2. The targets for reduced deforestation should be shared between the federal government and each state in the Brazilian Amazon, in the context of the State Plans for Prevention and Control of Deforestation;
3. The legal and financial instruments established for implementing the targets should recognize and guarantee the rights, and compensate in a just and equitable manner the efforts by the agents – indigenous peoples, local communities, traditional peoples, family farmers, rural producers and entrepreneurs in forestry, agriculture and ranching, among others – who are the stewards of environmental services that benefit national and global societies, through their practices of conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of forests.
4. Including recognition of innovative initiatives in local and sub-national projects that contribute in a measurable and transparent way to the fulfillment of the national and state targets;
5. The national strategy for raising funds for compensation of emission reduction from deforestation and forest degradation, in the context of the Amazon Fund, should be complemented by other financing mechanisms based on market instruments (voluntary or compliance based) that promote economic incentives for changing the behavior of private actors;
6. These funds should be in addition to regular public budgets.

At this time, we reaffirm our support of the government for the implementation of the initiatives proposed herein.

Cuiabá, April 5th, 2009.