

Manaus Declaration  
April 4, 2008

We, organizations of the Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Communities of Latin America, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Indonesia, meeting in the city of Manaus, Brazil at the Latin American Workshop, “Climate Change and Forest Peoples: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and the Rights of Indigenous and Traditional Peoples” affirm that:

1. **Global Climate Change represents an unparalleled threat to the future of humanity and the Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Communities**, who live in or depend on the forest and are already suffering its effects. These include severe regional droughts, drastic changes in rainfall regimes and increasingly frequent forest fires.
2. At current deforestation rates, in conjunction with increasing global warming, **large part of the world’s tropical forests are being drastically degraded, presenting a real threat to the subsistence and traditional ways of life** of our peoples and the planet as a whole.
3. Historically, **the Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Communities have played a fundamental role in the defense and protection of hundreds of millions of hectares of forest**, contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from tropical deforestation, without recognition of or compensation for this environmental service.
4. To address the challenges that Climate Change represents, **we consider it necessary to broaden and strengthen Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Communities’ organization internationally** so as to guarantee the effective diffusion of their ideas and proposals in the negotiations for a new, post-2012 emissions control regime in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This network should (1) seek **broad recognition of the role of indigenous people and traditional communities in forest conservation** and in reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from tropical deforestation; (2) **guarantee effective participation of the indigenous people and traditional communities in the construction of mechanisms that compensate them for the forest protection** they promote, such as those under discussion in the context of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) in the UNFCCC. This participation should extend to REDD pilot projects implemented by governments and the private sector. Finally, the two prior points must be closely linked to (3) **broader and complete respect for Indigenous Peoples’ and Traditional Communities’ Rights** and (4) observance of existing national and international legal principles of indigenous peoples’ territorial rights and traditional communities’ land rights.

5. To advance this international network of Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Communities, the participants the Manaus meeting propose to create a **Provisional Committee** composed of six members: three from South America, including two from Amazonia, one from the Congo Basin, one from Meso-America and one from Papua, Indonesia. This Committee, in coordination with the organizations signing this Declaration, will be charged with promoting, facilitating and mobilizing Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Communities internationally to more effectively participate in the United Nations negotiations on climate change, in particular REDD, as well as in initiatives on this issue in their respective countries, while keeping the members of the network, insofar as is possible, informed of their actions. The Committee will, in addition, have the mission of promoting information exchange and capacity building, ensuring young peoples' and women's' participation, as well as monitoring national and regional projects and programs for reducing deforestation. The Committee will remain active until January 2009, when, on the occasion of the World Social Forum to be held in Belém, Brazil, it will be responsible for convening the members of the network now formed, in order for them to create the definitive structure of an **International Alliance of Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Communities of the Forest**.

Name	Institution	Country
Adilson Vieira	Grupo de Trabalho Amazônico - GTA	Brasil
Alberto Cantanhede	Grupo de Trabalho Amazônico – GTA	Brasil
Amine Carvalho Santana	Grupo de Trabalho Amazônico – GTA	Brasil
Arildo Gapamé Suruí	Coordenação das Organizações Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira - COIAB	Brasil
Artinelio Hernandez	Congreso General Kuna	Panamá
Benky Piyanko	Coordenação das Organizações Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira - COIAB (Ashaninkas)	Brasil
Byayuwa Muley Adolphine	Union pour L'Emancipation de la Femme Autochtone "UEFA"	República Democrática do Congo
Carlos Picanerai	Coordinación por la Autodeterminación de los Pueblos Indígenas – CAPI	Paraguay
Célia Regina das Neves Favacho	Conselho Nacional dos Seringueiros – CNS	Brasil
Francisco Aginaldo Queiroz Silva	Grupo de Trabalho Amazônico – GTA	Brasil
Francisco Avelino Batista Apurinã	Coordenação das Organizações Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira - COIAB	Brasil
Gilberto Arias	Congreso General Kuna - Cacique General	Panamá
Jean Michel Aupoint	Union des Travailleurs Guyanais – UTG	Guiana Francesa
Jecinaldo Sateré	Coordenação das Organizações Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira - COIAB	Brasil

Joaquim Correa de Souza Belo	Conselho Nacional dos Seringueiros - CNS	Brasil
Joseph Itongwa Mukumo	PIDP-SHIRIKA LA BAMBUTI (Programme d'Intégration pour le Développement du Peuple Pygmée au Kivu)	República Democrática do Congo
Juan Carlos Rueda	Aliança dos Povos da Floresta	Brasil
Júlio Barbosa de Aquino	Conselho Nacional dos Seringueiros - CNS	Brasil
Kapupu Diwa Mutimanwa	Ligue Nationale des Associations Autochtones Pygmées du Congo - LINAPYCO	República Democrática do Congo
Laurensius Lirogo Lani	YAYASAN BINA ADAT WALESI (YBAW)	Papua, Indonésia
Lienche Fransiena Maloali	Papua Civil Society Support Foundation (PCSSF)	Papua, Indonésia
Manoel Cunha	Conselho Nacional dos Seringueiros - CNS	Brasil
Marilene Rodrigues Rocha	Sindicato dos Trabalhadores Rurais de Santarém	Brasil
Nardo Aloema	Organización de Pueblos Indígenas en Suriname - OIS	Suriname
Ninfa Tividor Yusuino	Organización Regional de los Pueblos Indígenas del Amazonas - ORPIA	Venezuela
Ruth Penafiel	Enlace Continental de Mujeres	Equador
Sebastião Alves Rodrigues Manchinery	Coordenação das Organizações Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira - COIAB	Brasil
Sinafasi Makelo Adrien	Dignité Pygmée - DIPY	República Democrática do Congo
Vilmar Martins Moura Guarany	Coordenação das Organizações Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira - COIAB	Brasil
Yolanda Hernandez	Coordinadora Kaqchikel POP JAY	Guatemala