



## **Mechanism of Mitigation and Adaptation for the Sustainable Handling of the Forests: Promoting the Integral Development in Balance with Mother Earth**

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The Plurinational State of Bolivia is pioneer in promoting a new vision of development based on “Live Well in harmony with Mother Earth” as an alternative for the commodification of the environmental functions, unsustainable growth and accumulation of wealth. This country vision faces many challenges such as: the institutionalisation of politics with an integral development approach based on the principles of Live Well, community life among people and respecting the rights of Mother Earth.

In the process of institutionalising this vision of development, the President of Bolivia, Evo Morales, adopted the Framework Bill Mother Earth and Integral Development to Live Well Framework - Nr. 300, which establishes an oriented vision to guarantee the continuity of the regeneration capacity of components and life systems of Mother Earth, retrieving and strengthening local and ancient knowledge.

This bill is implemented through **The Plurinational Authority of Mother Earth (APMT)**, a governmental body that promotes the interaction of territorial processes, integral handling of forests and productive systems with a mitigation and adaptation approach to climate change.

In this context, one of the development pillars of this country view is the construction of **the Joint Mechanism of Mitigation and Adaptation for the integral and sustainable management of Forests and Mother Earth**, presented by Bolivia at The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as a holistic and integral proposal that allows reducing forest degradation and poverty, strengthening the livelihood of local populations in the framework of a **mitigation and adaptation approach to climate change**, opposing to the proposal for Reducing the Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation of Forests (REDD+) based on a green economy.

The Joint Mechanism of Forests was established with the aim of *promoting the integral handling and sustainable use of forests and life systems of Mother Earth*, based on the *non-commodification of the environmental functions* of Mother Earth, and oriented towards the *strengthening of sustainable livelihood* of local populations, nations and the indigenous population in forest areas or living areas with forestry potential.

The Joint Mechanism of Forests seeks to advance mitigation and adaptation to climate change in an effective and integral manner, promoting de conservation and restoration of forests and life systems, and regulation of the expansion of the agricultural border through

the development of sustainable productive systems that reduce inappropriate deforestation and forest degradation, all in coordination with the local populations.

The methodological approach of the Joint Mechanism of Forests is oriented towards the development of planning processes, management and development of interventions at different levels of State and civil society, operationalized in five fields: i) *Governance of forests and life systems of Mother Earth*, ii) *Participative territorial management processes in the system of life systems*, iii) *Conclusion of local territorial agreements regarding objectives and/or goals of developing actions and implementation of sustainable and productive systems*, iv) *Integral support to the productive and sustainable systems and the integral and sustainable management of forests and life systems of Mother Earth*, v) *Information and integral monitoring of the components, environmental functions and life systems of Mother Earth*.

The territorial articulation process of the local sustainable development initiatives with the Joint Mechanism of Forests is the **territorial ascription** that has the objective of promoting the strengthening and sorting of life systems for the conservation and diversified use of forest resources linked to transformation processes and commercialisation of value added products.

This ascription process has a territorial approach that understands the articulation of different dynamics, considering visions and objectives in accordance with the intrinsic characteristics of each territory, and that in practice establishes synergies, dynamics between the involved actors and proposed initiatives, projects and programmes.

Currently, there are successful ascription experiences of Municipalities in Bolivia, mainly in the zones of the Amazon and Mesothermic Forests. 13 Municipalities takes part of the ascription process to the Joint Mechanism, 5 Municipalities are in the approval process of their Ascription Plans, six Territorial Consultative Platforms are in the process of incorporation and they have signed an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Department of Pando, all this for the development of actions oriented towards the mitigation and adaptation to climate change, based on the development of initiatives of sustainable development.

The construction of this new vision of development proposed by the Plurinational State of Bolivia has not been an easy task, however the successful experiences mean a great advance in the implementation of a new form of development, based on the sustainable development of life systems respecting the rights of Mother Earth.

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