



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT
Central and Southern Africa, Indian Ocean
Director f.f.

Brussels, **25 NOV. 2019**
DEVCO/E1/LR/sfg
[devco.e.1.dir\(2019\)7788131](#)

Dear Mr Counsell, dear Mr Corry,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 29/10/2019 and for your interest in the issues of human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples. The European Commission takes your concerns seriously and is fully committed to respect and promote human rights – values common to your and our organisations – in the conservation programmes it supports.

We are currently in the process of formulating a more elaborate response to your letter. Please note however, that this requires us to consult with our partners and assemble the information you ask for, which can take some time. We are doing our best to get back to you with a response as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we would already like to respond to your inquiries into documentation and your comments on transparency and accountability principles raised in points 3 and 4 of your letter.

Regarding your inquiry to share with you any documentation about grievance mechanisms under point 3 of your letter, we would need you to clarify which protected areas, which timeframe as well as which type of documentation you refer to in order to be able to formulate our response.

Regarding your inquiry under point 4 of your letter we are able to share with you immediately the relevant Action documents, which are in fact quite identical to the Technical, and Administrative Provisions (TAPs) included in the respective Financing Agreements you have requested. You may find all action documents on DEVCO's website immediately after their adoption under <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/funding->

Simon Counsell
Executive Director
Rainforest Foundation UK
Joe@rainforeststuk.org

Stephen Corry
Director
Survival International
ask+request-6989-81824fed@askthecu.org

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË - Tel. +32 22991111
Office: L-41 05/051 - Tel. direct line +32 229-13265

Laura.RAHMEIER@ec.europa.eu

[instruments-programming/annual-action-programmes_en](#). For easy reference, we have also attached the action document relevant to the aforementioned Financing Agreement in the annex.

The Financing Agreements are concluded between the EU and a partner country or bodies designated by them and regional organisation, entrusting them with tasks under the general budget of the EU and the EDF, thereby ensuring ownership. In this case, the relevant Financing Agreement was concluded between the EU and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and is titled '*Environnement et Agriculture Durable Pour la Sauvegarde des Sites Biologiques Prioritaires de La RDC*'. DEVCO does not ordinarily proactively publish Financing Agreements to respect the international, diplomatic relations with governments of partner states.

Contracts in execution of the financing agreement are concluded between contracting authorities and implementing partners. In indirect management mode, where the European Commission delegates the implementation of an action to a partner country or a regional organisation, the latter act as the contracting authority which awards and manages contracts. In this case, the relevant contract was concluded between WWF and the government of the DRC, represented by the "Cellule d'appui a l'Ordonnateur national – COFED" a national body having the role as the contracting authority, and financially endorsed by the EU, for the action entitled '*Programme Agricole Rural et de Conservation du Complexe de Salonga (PARCCS)*'.

Please note that access to documentation can be requested under Regulation (EC) No 1049/2011. Any request requires DEVCO to consult relevant third parties, in this case partner governments and/or implementing organisations – a process that is likely to take some time. Upon consultation, DEVCO can then decide to publically release the requested documentation in accordance with Regulation No 1049/2011.

If you have any further questions or comments regarding your inquiry into documentation, you can contact us by email to: EuropeAid-El@ec.europa.eu.

We will do our best to soon get back to you with a response on the additional points you have raised in your letter. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Yours faithfully,



Francesca DI MAURO
Director f.f.