



For the first time, the country will lead an alliance at the Climate Change Summit

Panama is ready for the COP21 Summit on Climate Change

Panama, 27 November 2015. At the upcoming Summit on Climate Change, which starts on November 30 in Paris, France, Panama will present a proposal for a major alliance between 52 countries. The "Alliance for Rainforest Nations" which Panama leads for the first time, will propose that the role of forests be included in the Paris agreement. This alliance is the second largest bargaining unit after the G77 + China.

"We have worked for over 12 months to achieve consensus on the position of this group of 52 countries, the second most important in the negotiation of the Summit, and hope that world leaders recognize that, to meet the target of keeping the increase in temperature below 2° C, the protection and conservation of forests is essential," said Vice Minister of Multilateral Affairs and Cooperation, Maria Luisa Navarro.

Navarro also stressed that Panama not only promotes this initiative at the global level but leads by example. "We are the only country to incorporate in its national government strategy, compliance with the five components of protection, conservation, restoration and forest management called 'Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation' (REDD +) which not only contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but to improve the quality of life for Panamanians and our future generations."

Meanwhile, the Minister of Environment, Mirei Endara, added that "achieving this goal translates into new opportunities for development and financing for countries like Panama that have tropical forests, which properly preserved and managed, represent a carbon dioxide reservoir for Panamanians and the planet."

The Panamanian delegation will reportedly participate in more than 30 parallel summit meetings where projects of the National Strategy on Climate Change and the Alliance for the Million Hectares will be presented as well as the portfolio of the 10 Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) to identify international financing for the implementation of these and other strategic projects.

In addition to officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environment, the Panamanian delegation will also include representatives of the Ministry of Education, Panama Canal Authority, the National Energy Secretariat, Metro of Panama, the Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and The Caribbean (CATHALAC), the Mayor of Panama City, the Technological University of Panama, Natura Foundation, two members of the Committee on Environment and the Guna General Congress, who aside from working in the negotiation process, will seek to develop international cooperation projects for their institutions.