

Redress

Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM)

C-0006-Nicaragua / Extension of time decision – Secretariat Response to Complaint

21 February 2022



**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**

IRM Extension of Time Decision – Compliance Review

GCF Project FP146 - *Bio-CLIMA: Integrated climate action to reduce deforestation and strengthen resilience in BOSAWÁS and Rio San Juan Biospheres*
Date 21 February 2022

1. On 21 July 2021, the IRM declared the subject complaint eligible, and published the eligibility determination on its website.¹ The complaint relates to the GCF funded project, FP146, “Bio-CLIMA: Integrated climate action to reduce deforestation and strengthen resilience in BOSAWÁS and Rio San Juan Biospheres”, a project based in the Caribbean Region of Nicaragua. The complainant(s) requested confidentiality, and the IRM granted it in accordance with its Terms of Reference (TOR) and Procedures and Guidelines (PGs) and as a result of its retaliation risk assessment.
2. In accordance with the IRM’s Procedures and Guidelines (PGs), the IRM conducted an initial steps phase until 17 January 2022, to provide sufficient time for all parties to consider options to mediate the dispute.
3. As parties were unable to reach a framework agreement to proceed with mediation by the 17 January 2022 deadline, the IRM referred the complaint to compliance review. On 31 January 2022, the IRM, in accordance with paragraph 51 of the PGs, formally requested the GCF Secretariat to submit a response to the complaint within twenty-one days of the communication i.e. on or before 21 February 2022.
4. On 21 February 2022, the Secretariat requested an extension of 14 calendar days from the IRM to submit its response, citing the following reasons:
 - a) challenges related to COVID-19 working arrangements within the GCF Secretariat; and
 - b) more time required for interdivisional collaboration and effort within the Secretariat to prepare the response.
5. In order to ensure the full and proper processing of this case, parties must be provided adequate time to prepare and present their views. The IRM finds that the reasons given for the extension by the Secretariat are reasonable. At the same time, this case has already delayed considerably during the initial steps phase, as the parties were afforded an additional 120 days for consideration of the mediation option. Also, the Secretariat has already had 21 days to prepare its response. Taking all the circumstances into account, and acting in terms of paragraph 95 of the PGs, the IRM has decided to extend the time period for the Secretariat to provide a response from 21 February 2022 to 03 March 2022 (10 days).

[Signed]

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Registrar and Case Officer
Independent Redress Mechanism
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¹ Available at: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/case/c0006-nicaragua-eligibility-determination.pdf>