13 July, 2010

Dear Chairs of the Interim REDD+ Partnership, Federica Bietta, Special Advisor on Climate Change, Papua New Guinea and, Yoshiko Kijima, Senior Negotiator on Climate Change, Japan

As the world’s largest coalition of global civil society organizations working for ambitious global action on climate change, the Climate Action Network – International and its 500 member organizations shares your views on the importance of a REDD+ initiative that has as its main goal to ensure effective and sustainable REDD+ actions over the next few years.

However, the engagement of civil society in this process has been inadequate and confusing since the beginning and, consequently, a motive for serious criticism. If a REDD+ Partnership is to succeed, both on the ground in developing countries, and globally, it must feature the active participation of civil society. The views of the people and communities around the world to be affected by REDD+ must both inform the Partnership process and be reflected in the ultimate design and implementation of REDD+ mechanisms.

Just one week before the REDD+ Partnership meeting in Brazilia on 14 and 15 July, civil society organizations were invited to select 12 organizations and two representatives from each to participate in that meeting and send suggestions. This short notice is simply not acceptable. The REDD+ Partnership must clarify and put into practice a clear, credible and coherent policy for civil society participation. In light of this, CAN will not participate formally in the meeting, but may have members who attend and take notes. We also urge you and the other Partners in this effort to not finalize any decisions on the Partnership at the Brazil meeting.

As always we are entirely at your disposal to work with you on finding the best solution for this matter so crucial to the success of the Partnership.

With best regards,