

Foreword

As the country with the second largest area of tropical forest in the Amazon, in Peru we are well aware of the global importance of forest conservation for combatting climate change, and of the implications of climate change for people who live in and depend on forests.

The latest IPCC report, released in 2018, clearly demonstrates that we are already living with the effects of climate change, driven, in part, by deforestation and forest degradation. The consequences are increasingly evident. Climate change is critically affecting our biodiversity, which in Peru has implications for food security and for our internationally renowned national cuisine; it is affecting the provision of important ecosystem services, such as the regulation of water and carbon; and it is affecting well-being, particularly that of the indigenous peoples and local communities whose livelihoods are threatened.

In view of these problems, mechanisms like reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) connect international support to local actions in countries like ours, presenting a window of opportunity to plan measures to stop deforestation. There is no doubt that implementation is challenging. It means that all involved must intensify their commitment to take concrete steps, so that together we can respond to the urgent call to action of the IPCC report.

Peru has already started down the path to reducing deforestation. Our National Strategy on Forests and Climate Change defines our vision of how this will happen until 2030, and REDD+ provides a frame for important actions to reduce forest loss. As the primary cause of greenhouse gases in our country, deforestation is also one of the core concerns of our Nationally Determined Contribution to

reduce emissions, which is currently under development. One of the ways we will tackle deforestation is to assign land tenure rights in an organised manner, so as to increase the value of forests and fight illegal activities.

One central factor in the design and implementation of these strategies is dialogue. We cannot move forward unless we involve everyone and work together towards a common goal. Countries need to make commitments, but so do subnational governments, while guaranteeing the participation of civil society, indigenous peoples' organisations and other relevant actors. This has been one of the biggest lessons we have learned while implementing REDD+ in Peru.

Indigenous peoples play a key role in this process, and the forest and climate change agenda has brought them into the ring. We have supported initiatives that improve the exercise of their rights, and that revalue ancestral knowledge and practices that are important today for the management of forest ecosystems and the maintenance of carbon stocks. In this regard, the Peruvian government is developing conservation mechanisms *with* indigenous peoples. And we encourage other actors to contribute to these efforts and to replicate them elsewhere.

The research in this book demonstrates the complexity of implementing REDD+, more than a decade after discussions first began at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali. Implementation tends to bring out aspects that were not foreseen at the design stage, and the context and interactions among the actors involved lead to frequent adjustments in the field. This volume therefore presents important lessons, learned from a wide variety of initiatives that, although applied in diverse scenarios, share common challenges.

Fighting deforestation is a challenge, but it's also an opportunity. It is difficult because it is not about applying a single intervention but rather requires a whole series of interventions at the same time to be effective. For example, promoting deforestation-free agriculture through intensification, as discussed in the book, requires more than just forestry measures; it requires attending to land rights, law enforcement, and more. It's also an opportunity because the goals go beyond reducing deforestation towards improving indigenous peoples' exercise of rights, reducing poverty, guaranteeing food security, strengthening institutions, conserving biodiversity and creating jobs.

Achieving lower levels of deforestation and its co-benefits means not letting down our guard on the international political commitment to continue the fight against climate change; mobilising resources from international cooperation and the private sector; and supporting an increasing number of subnational governments to lead initiatives in their jurisdictions, in collaboration with civil society and indigenous peoples. For this, we can count on the lessons learned from rigorous

analysis like that found in the chapters of this book, which helps us to make our interventions more effective and equitable.

There is no plan B: this is the only Earth that we have. We need to take these messages to our countries, our local governments and our communities. It's going to be a race down the field, but I know we will make the goal. I know we can do this, because we have to.

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Peru