

*Via electronic mail*

May 27, 2025

**Board of Executive Directors**

The World Bank  
Group 1818 H  
Street NW  
Washington, DC  
20433

**Subject:** Urgent Request for Inspection Panel Verification Visit to Address Ongoing Harm from the Santa Cruz Road Corridor Project in Bolivia (P152281)

Dear Members of the World Bank Board of Executive Directors,

We write to you as representatives of four Chiquitano Indigenous Peoples communities in Bolivia, where the World Bank-financed Santa Cruz Road Corridor Connector Project (San Ignacio–San José) has irreversibly altered our territories and lives. We speak not only from a place of deep concern, but from lived experience of being marginalized, harmed, and excluded from decisions that affect our livelihoods. Today, we are facing the continued failure to implement the Management Action Plan (MAP). The Board now has a critical opportunity to take a step toward remedy and demonstrate that the World Bank does not walk away from harm. We urge the World Bank Board to authorize an Inspection Panel verification mission to assess the implementation of the MAP.

The harms caused by this project are thoroughly documented in the Inspection Panel's investigation report. In response, Bank Management produced a MAP. Our communities hoped that two specific MAP actions—related to *atajados* and borrow pits—could offer at least partial redress<sup>1</sup>. However, these commitments have either not been implemented at all or have been implemented in ways that have exacerbated environmental and social risks. This is documented in the report we attach to this letter.

When we raised this with the World Bank staff, we were told that all the actions of the MAP were progressing as planned, without any evidence showing concrete progress on the *atajados* and borrow pits. At the same time, when we contested that with proof that that was not true, World Bank staff pointed to shortcomings by the Bolivian government to explain the delays. Yet, none of our legitimate Indigenous authorities were invited to shape, monitor, or validate the implementation of the MAP. During a recent visit to Bolivia, World Bank officials stated that most of the MAP had been completed and that

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<sup>1</sup> We talk about partial redress because the MAP did not adequately respond to the scope and severity of the harm identified by the Panel's investigation. We believe that the disconnect between the Panel's findings and the MAP's proposed actions is serious and does not seek to provide full remedy for the harms caused by the project.

implementation was carried out with the support of local actors. But these actors were not us or any member of our affected communities. Our voices have been excluded throughout the MAP process.

The violations that led to this situation are not in the past, they are present and ongoing. The report we prepared with Fundación Tierra shows that several measures claimed as “completed” have, in fact, exacerbated the risks for our communities. The atajados remain dry, polluted, or non-functional. The borrow pits continue to pose environmental hazards.

We are not only telling you that harm has occurred—we are telling you that harm continues. The non-compliance identified by the Inspection Panel has not been resolved. This is not just a failure to comply with the Bank’s safeguards; it is a failure to deliver remedy after harm has occurred and been documented by your own independent accountability mechanism.

We need the Inspection Panel to visit our territories, speak with our people, and independently assess whether the MAP commitments have been fulfilled and whether the situation on the ground aligns with the information reported to you. Without this verification, the bare minimum actions in the MAP that could provide redress may never be properly implemented.

Sincerely,

  
PRESIDENTE  
CCISM



  
C.I. 3904900 SL.  
GRAN CACIQUE  
ACISARV



  
VICE PRESIDENTE  
C.C.I.H. - TURUBO  
San José de Chiquitos - Santa Cruz - Bolivia



  
GRAN CACIQUE  
A.C.I.S.I.V.

