



Acción Ecológica

Quito, Ecuador, December 7th, 2009.

Honorable
Bev Oda
Minister of International Cooperation
CANADA

Dear Minister:

By means of the following letter, we ask you to maintain the relationship between ACDI and Kairos in order to support the programs of human rights and environmental sustainability in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

The support of Kairos has been of vital importance in our countries in promoting human rights and in the pursuit of environmental justice. The role of Kairos is increasingly important considering the serious situation of violence that exists in our region and the environmental crisis that further affects the living situations of our poorest communities.

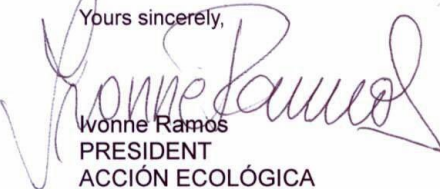
Kairos has been supporting our organization, Acción Ecológica, since 2002. Acción Ecológica is an environmental organization that has been working in Ecuador for more than twenty years for the defense of environmental rights, sustainability and environmental justice, threatened by the dispute over natural resources.

Kairos' accompaniment of our work has, amongst other things, allowed for further research and training regarding the impacts of the foreign debt on economic, social and environmental rights, and led to the identification of the ecological debt. As part of this process, an official audit of Ecuador's public debt was conducted. The impacts of external debt in our country have meant increased poverty and environmental degradation. With work supported by Kairos, we could also identify the main causes of environmental degradation and the impacts of climate change.

As one can see, the cessation of Kairos' crucial support to our work will no doubt result in the significantly increased vulnerability of our peoples in relation to their social and environmental rights and the serious consequences of climate change.

For all these reasons, and taking into account the worsening environmental situation, both locally and globally, and its impacts on the rights of our peoples, we insist on the urgency of restoring ACDI's relationship with Kairos.

Yours sincerely,


Ivonne Ramos
PRESIDENT
ACCIÓN ECOLÓGICA


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