

PRESS RELEASE

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE AND WELL-BEING:  
VALUES OF TERRITORY, BIODIVERSITY AND SACRED FORESTS

Guatemala City,  
28, 29 and 30 of April 2014  
Oxib ' Aj , Kajib ' Ix and Job ' Tz'ikin on the Mayan Calendar

**Ancestral Authorities, Indigenous Mayors and Community Authorities** from San Andrés Sajcabaja, Chajul, Nebaj, Santa Cruz del Quiché, San Pedro la Laguna, Santiago Atitlán, Momostenango, Totonicapan, San José Poaquil, Salamá, Baja Verapaz, Fray Bartolomé de las Casas, San Sebastián, Mazatenango and Suchitepéquez representing the linguistic communities of K'che', Kaqchikel, Q'eqchi', Mam, Tzutujil, Ixil and Rab'inaleb' participated in the workshop on "Traditional Knowledge and Community Governance of Biodiversity and Sacred forests" and **established the "ALLIANCE FOR LIVING WELL, UTZALAJ K'ASLEMAL PAJUNAMAM"**:

VALUE the efforts of the various peoples, communities and organizations working for the recognition, respect, dignity and defence of the territories of Indigenous and local communities, including their biodiversity, sacred forests and their integral traditional knowledge and governance systems that contribute to community well-being of current and future generations.

REMEMBER that for thousands of years, indigenous peoples have taken care of our lands, territories, forests, sacred sites and natural resources according to their own traditional governance and belied systems in the face of colonialism and the current mono-cultural State.

ASK all of the Ancestral Authorities Indigenous Mayors, Community Authorities to guide Indigenous peoples and local communities and their organizations through promoting life and through wise counsel on the full exercise of political, social, economic, cultural and environmental rights.

DENOUNCE -before the various of human rights and diplomatic institutions accredited in our country- violations of the most basic rights and criminalization of the legitimate struggle of Indigenous peoples and communities that have been caused by transnational corporations and their national partners through projects in mining, hydroelectric, oil, timber and oil palm.

REMEMBER that the social conflict that exists in communities and municipalities are the result of neoliberal, individualistic, selfish, opportunistic and ambitious transnational corporations and national companies that reproduce inhuman economic models.

CALL FOR Indigenous peoples and communities to continue to work for an economy of solidarity and respect for life in all its dimensions.

DEMAND that the State complies with the principle of free, prior and informed consent in accordance with its commitments to international treaties.

Given in the city of Guatemala, the April 30, 2014 , Job ' Tz'ikin Mayan Calendar .