Statement about Fair Trade and the Gold Standard (19 Nov 2015)

Recently the Gold Standard Foundation, the certifying agency for Proyecto Mirador’s carbon emission reductions, created a relationship with Fair Trade International to offer Fair Trade certification to cookstove projects meeting certain requirements of the Fair Trade model. This model requires that organizations be classified as a Small Producer Organization (SPO) or Community Based Organization (CBO). (Please see below Section 1.1, Fair Trade Climate Standard, 19 March, 2015.)

Proyecto Mirador (Mirador) is not a Small Producer Organization nor is it a Community Based Organization and therefore is restricted from qualifying for Fair Trade certification.

Perhaps more important than being an SPO or CBO, Proyecto Mirador is a non-profit that distributes all proceeds from carbon sales and donations to Proyecto Mirador LLC, Honduras, for the construction of cookstoves. In this way, carbon sales and donations are continuously returned to Honduras to benefit the communities where carbon credits were generated. Since 2004, Mirador has built 100,000 stoves in family homes, reaching an estimated 20% of the poor rural population, benefitting more than 450,000 people.

Significantly, Mirador does not limit whom it serves. Our project beneficiaries and suppliers are employed in a multitude of professions rather than in a unified cooperative. We do not question our beneficiaries about their occupations, have knowledge of their labor practices nor interview them as to whether they are members of a trade organization. Our stove users do not need to be of any political or religious affiliation. Families are only required to meet our simple qualifications by providing inexpensive, readily available materials for their stove and must be cooking with a traditional wood stove before adopting the Dos por Tres.

Also important are the number, quality and regularity of jobs Mirador provides. Mirador has created 130 direct and indirect jobs and created or helped grow 16 locally owned microenterprises. These employees and small businesses can count on Mirador for regular employment. There are a number of small producer organizations under the Mirador umbrella that build stoves for us, and several other small producer organizations that make the materials we use to construct our stoves. Our stove is constructed from locally made, not imported materials. (We do, however, import steel in sheet form that our local providers use to fabricate planchas (cooktops) as well as lengths of rebar that are used to fabricate stove mouth grates.)

All the organizations supported under Mirador’s operations are ethically managed according to fair labor practice. We establish rules and regulations with regard to quality for our suppliers and provide regular training programs in order to ensure we provide a quality product to our users. Each year, as part of our annual verification for the Gold Standard carbon certification, our employees are surveyed to ensure that their experience with Proyecto Mirador is positive and to proactively address any concerns that may arise. We have a Manager of Human Resources whose responsibility it is to see that wages are fair, that there are opportunities for arbitration, and that employees are treated fairly in their daily work.

We believe we meet or exceed all criteria for a well-run, ethical project.
**Fair Trade Requirements**
The award of the *Fair Trade* mark is contingent on project producers being organized either in Small Producer Organizations (SPOs) or Community Based Organizations (CBOs) or any structure that fulfills the criteria according to Section 1.1 of the *Fair Trade* Climate Standard (19 March, 2015).

1. Social and Business Development

**Intent:**
*This section intends to ensure that individual producers are part of an organization, to guarantee that the benefits of the project reach them. This organization should be democratic and run in a transparent and non-discriminative way, to maximize the producers' participation and their sense of ownership over the organization. This section is addressed to Producer Organizations and individual producers.*

1.1 Producer Organization

(Core) (Year 0) Producers of FCC are part of a Producer Organization. The Producer Organization can be of any form or setup (Association, Community Based Organization, Small Producer Organization as defined by Fairtrade18), or any other form that has formal structures in place (association, union, cooperative, saving and credit group, small enterprises, etc.).

It must have:
- **A structure**, where individual members are able to make democratic and transparent decisions about Fairtrade issues, including the use of the *Fairtrade Premium*.
- **Representatives that are democratically elected** to represent all individual producers taking into account gender, location, community membership, and, where applicable, temporary or migrant workers. Elections must be documented.
- **An established communication and feedback system** in place between the representatives and the producers, so that information and concerns, are shared between all parties and documented in a timely manner. More particularity this system has to communicate about the Fairtrade Development plan and Fairtrade sales and income.
- Clear written **membership rules** and records, including contact names, dates and details of project implementation (e.g. purchasing a stove, receiving a water filter, planting trees, etc.)

**Guidance:** *The structure should be able to engage in commercial activities. Depending on the local context, it is recommended that this structure is legally registered.*

1.1.2 (Core) (Year 0) In the case of a PoA, the Project Facilitator, is the Coordinating/Managing Entity or the Voluntary Project activity implementer. It must ensure there is at least one-Producer Organization for each Component Project Activities (see PoA definition), following the rules stated in the above mentioned requirement.

**Guidance:** *The representatives elected represent all producers, taking into account gender, location, community membership, and, where applicable, temporary or migrant workers.*

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