

BALIKPAPAN CHALLENGE BRINGS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TOGETHER WITH INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS TO SOLVE TROPICAL DEFORESTATION:

THE GCF TASK FORCE LAUNCHES THE GLOBAL STEERING COMMITTEE



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Delegates from the Governors' Climate and Forests (GCF) Task Force subnational governments in Colombia, Brazil, Indonesia, Peru and Mexico have teamed up with supply chain stakeholders, civil society, foundations, and donors to launch a Global Steering Committee on Agricultural Production and Tropical Deforestation to support the Balikpapan Challenge. Launched at the 2017 GCF Task Force Annual Meeting in East Kalimantan, Indonesia, the Balikpapan Challenge seeks to bring commitments to action in the fight against tropical deforestation and climate change. The initiative is uniquely positioned as a bottom-up approach that is led by the governments of producer regions worldwide.

The Global Steering Committee held its first official meeting on March 28, 2018. It seeks to advance new partnerships in GCF jurisdictions that tackle commodity-driven deforestation and secure jurisdictional sourcing deals by 2020. It will support strategies that are already under development in GCF states and provinces and work to link those efforts with regional and international

processes, such as the Accountability Framework and TFA2020. The Committee is now establishing working groups to support jurisdictional sourcing agreements and to foster global consensus on how best to define progress in solving deforestation. The work of the Global Steering Committee will feed directly into regional and state-level strategies in Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico, and Peru that are supported by the GCF Task Force Secretariat in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme REDD+ Team in Geneva.

Lorenzo Vargas represents Caquetá, Colombia, on the Steering Committee, and described it as an opportune space where representatives of local governments, donors and the private sector can find convergence between agricultural production and environmental concerns in supporting low emission rural development. According to Mr. Vargas, "Caquetá believes that it is important to foster alliances that support investments in productive activities that reduce deforestation, and we hope to advance in this vision with the Steering Committee".