



## THE GOVERNORS' CLIMATE AND FOREST TASK FORCE GLOBAL COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Committee members  
visiting the Yurok Nation

### SUPPORTING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOR FOREST CONSERVATION, CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION, TERRITORIAL RIGHTS AND WELL-BEING

#### THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges we face today—no one individual, community or sector can solve it alone. It's going to take collective action, collaboration and innovation to secure a sustainable and equitable future for the planet. That future will run on the power of partnerships.

Indigenous peoples, traditional communities and other forest-dependent communities are important partners in the fight to slow climate change. Indigenous peoples and local communities own or have designated use rights to approximately 18% of the world's tropical forests and maintain 20% of the total above ground carbon stored in the world's major tropical forest regions (Indonesia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mesoamerica, Amazon Basin).

Subnational governments have increasingly recognized the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in realizing commitments to halt deforestation. In 2014, members of the Governors' Climate and Forest (GCF) Task Force signed the Rio Branco Declaration, committing themselves to reduce deforestation by 80% by 2020 and to sharing the benefits from these efforts with indigenous peoples and local communities. This unique network of 38 subnational governments encompasses over one-third of the world's tropical forests.

The GCF Global Committee on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities was formed in 2016 with the overarching goal of strengthening partnerships between subnational governments and indigenous peoples and local communities to help move the Rio Branco Declaration from pledge into practice. This global movement has helped spark regional dialogues between subnational governments and forest-based communities—in Brazil, Peru, Indonesia and other places where GCF membership is strong.

To date, the Global Committee has convened knowledge sharing events around some of the most powerful examples of partnerships between subnational jurisdictions, indigenous peoples and local communities to date. The group convened its first meeting in Northern California to learn about the Yurok Tribal Government's partnership with the California government through the State Forestry Offset Program, which has helped advance the Tribal Government's goals of reacquisition of ancestral lands, economic development and cultural preservation. Regionally, as in the case of Brazil, GCF Task Force Members and indigenous leaders gathered in the State of Acre to understand the potential for replicating the state's groundbreaking institutional platforms for the participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making around forests and benefits from forest conservation.

The GCF Global Committee on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities seeks to demonstrate the potential of partnerships to contribute to national and subnational forest conservation goals, while also advancing the agendas of indigenous peoples and local communities. Learning, collective action and collaboration are key.

As committee member Francisca Arará from Acre's Association of Indigenous Professors puts it: *"We don't want governments to come and do things for us; we want to work together."*





## COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALLIES

# GCF task force



## SUPPORTED BY



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## WHO WE ARE

- A Global Alliance—the GCF Task Force—which covers over 1/3 of the world's tropical forests and includes governors, secretaries of the environment, and civil servants from subnational governments in 38 jurisdictions and 10 countries
- Tribal governments, indigenous peoples and local communities organizations, and civil society groups

## WHAT WE DO

- Provide a forum for the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities within the GCF Task Force
- Serve as an advisory body to the GCF Task Force
- Adhere to Guiding Principles for Collaboration and Partnership between Subnational Governments, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
- Structure and support capacity building, technical development and implementation of global and regional strategies to promote inclusive and sustainable partnerships between subnational governments and indigenous peoples and local communities
- Exchange and disseminate knowledge and successful models of partnerships across the GCF Task Force

## HOW WE WORK

Global and Regional Committees (Brazil, Indonesia, Mesoamerica, Western Amazon and Africa) are important platforms for sharing models and lessons learned from innovative partnerships. These groups are comprised of governmental members of the GCF, indigenous and local community leaders, representatives of civil society organizations and the donor community.

## LEARN MORE

For more information about the GCF Global Committee on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and to join the movement, please visit: [www.gcftf.org](http://www.gcftf.org)