

2022 GCF Task Force Annual Meeting
Main achievements and moving forward to reduce deforestation in tropical forest states and provinces

This year's Governors' Climate and Forests (GCF) Task Force [Annual Meeting](#) took place from March 15-18 in the gorgeous city of Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil. Manaus is located where the confluence of the Rios Negro and Solimões form the Amazon River. GCF Task Force Chair and Governor of Amazonas, Wilson Lima, reminded participants in the meeting that the GCF Task Force itself serves as a unique confluence of innovation, ideas, and partnerships from across the globe. After a nearly three-year delay because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting offered us the opportunity to reconnect, reinvigorate, and advance in our mission to empower state and provincial leaders to implement innovative jurisdictional programs that protect tropical forests and promote low-emissions development. Governors and civil servants were joined by key national government, private sector, civil society, Indigenous peoples and local community leaders to highlight collaborative strategies and approaches for reducing deforestation in tropical forest states and provinces while working to reduce poverty, improve livelihoods, secure rights and protect cultures, promote private investments, and build low-emissions, forest-based economies. Together, we discussed pathways forward that focus on *implementing* strategic climate and forest actions in the year to come.



The Meeting of Waters

Key Meeting Outcomes

Following this year's theme—**Forests, Society, Green Economy: New Development Models for the Future of the Planet**—highlights from the meeting included:

- **Unanimous endorsement of the Manaus Action Plan for a New Forest Economy (MAP)** In this plan, GCF Task Force members issued a clear vision of their realities and needs and an urgent call for recognition and partnership to reduce deforestation and improve people's lives in forested regions. Through the MAP, GCF Task Force members are committing to reduce tropical deforestation by at least 80% by 2030, increasing reforestation and adaptation efforts, and enhancing the resilience of tropical forests with sufficient, long-term financing and support.

The MAP can be downloaded here:

-English -Portuguese -Spanish -Bahasa -French



Approval of the Manaus Action Plan by unanimous vote from all delegates and governors at the GCF Task Force 2022 Annual Meeting

- **Advancing a clear structure and budget concept of the Global Committee of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities of the GCF Task Force**

The Global Committee is composed of representatives of GCF Task Force governments, regional and global Indigenous peoples, and local community leaders. It seeks to advance the [Guiding Principles for Collaboration and Partnership Between Subnational Governments, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities](#).

- **Approval of new member and observers**

Delegates approved the 39th member of the GCF Task Force, Zamora Chinchipe (Ecuador). The following observer states were also approved: Morona Santiago (Ecuador) and Santa Cruz and Pando (Bolivia).

- **Approval of GCF Task Force Chairs**

Members approved a collaboratively negotiated sharing of leadership duties for the next two years, with San Martin (Peru) and Yucatan (Mexico) serving as co-chairs for the rest of 2022, respectively hosting meetings in the fall and into the beginning of the new year; and Papua (Indonesia) chairing the network for 2023.

- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with USAID Brazil**

The meeting also saw a first-of-its-kind MOU between subnational states and USAID, with an MOU between USAID/Brazil and the GCF Task Force. Aligned with the MAP, the MOU will support GCF Task Force Brazilian states to develop a cooperative program to reduce deforestation, support the bio-economy on the Amazon, and promote partnerships with the private sector. We look forward to modeling this type of MOU for other regions.

- **Andean-Amazonian Governors' Coalition**

The Andean-Amazonian Action Plan was another commitment during the GCF Task Force Annual Meeting. Representatives of the subnational governments of Acre, Brazil; Amazonas, Madre de Dios, Ucayali, San Martín, Loreto, and Huánuco, Peru; Caquetá, Colombia; Pastaza, Zamora Chinchipe, and Morona Santiago, Ecuador; and Tarija, Santa Cruz, and Pando, Bolivia renewed their engagements to align the MAP to the Andean-Amazonian region.

- **Amazonas State: Guardians of the Forest**

Another significant announcement was the Amazonas Guardians of the Forest Program. The initiative developed by the Government of the state of Amazonas aims to guarantee environmental conservation in Conservation Units of the state by offering payments for environmental services to the residents and users promoting native forest activities. The resources came from the State Fund for Climate Change, Environmental Conservation, and Environmental Services.



The opening ceremony, with the GCF Task Force governors



Photo 2. Signature of the MOU between the GCF Task Force and USAID Brazil

Four Pillars of the MAP

Detailed panels and side events focused on the **MAP's four pillars: People and Communities; Knowledge, Technology, and Innovation; Finance, Investment, and the Private Sector; and Government and Public Policies.** While these discussions have already created new connections, they are only the start of exchanges that will take root and expand with sufficient support.

Moving forward to reducing deforestation

As we prepare for the upcoming meetings in San Martin, Yucatan, and Papua, we also look forward to working together to implement the MAP pillars in each GCF Task Force region. This will require collaborative approaches and support to continue existing actions and build new ones on the ground, in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and local and traditional communities. The GCF Task Force is grateful for the generous support of our many partners—both for the Annual Meeting and for longer-term joint efforts.

