

GCF Task Force Membership Procedures

Observers

1. Observers are states and provinces interested in learning more about the GCF Task Force by participating in GCF Task Force activities. Being an observer is the first step to becoming a GCF Task Force member. Jurisdictions must be an observer for one year prior to seeking full membership.
2. A jurisdiction seeking official GCF Task Force observer status must submit a Letter of Interest in Observer Status to the GCF Task Force Secretariat and GCF Task Force Chair from a high-ranking official in the state/province, which introduces the jurisdiction to the GCF Task Force, requests observer status, describes its interest in the GCF Task Force, low emissions rural development, and REDD+ and designates a representative for purposes of GCF Task Force communication. This letter must be received at least one month prior to the first day of the GCF Task Force Annual Meeting.
3. To be eligible for Observer Status, applicants must attend the GCF Task Force Annual Meeting.
4. Observer status must be approved by consensus vote by the current GCF Task Force members at the Annual Meeting.
5. Observers are encouraged to participate in GCF Task Force activities, including all sessions of the GCF Task Force Annual Meeting except for closed sessions designated for member states and provinces only.
6. As a general matter, there is no funding to support observer attendance at GCF Task Force meetings.
7. Observers with interest in becoming a member shall follow the new member process described below. Observers may also choose to remain as observers.

New Members

8. Jurisdictions interested in becoming a member of the GCF Task Force are required to be an observer for at least one year.
9. Jurisdictions interested in becoming a member of the GCF Task Force must also demonstrate that they:
 - a. Support the emerging commitments of the GCF Task Force. This includes the [Guiding Principles for Collaboration and Partnership between](#)



Subnational Governments, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, the Rio Branco Declaration, the Manaus Action Plan, and the GCF Task Force Gender Policy: Women for Forests and Climate;

- b. Have forests of strategic importance to the country and demonstrated national policy or planning instruments;
 - c. Be part of an existing coalition of subnational governments that promotes sustainable development and combats deforestation;
 - d. Have a minimum of 5% of the country's forest coverage. Adjustments to these criteria may be considered in countries where the GCF Task Force already has a member;
 - e. Demonstrate high-level leadership and commitment to the forest and climate agenda. The jurisdiction must demonstrate this leadership has resulted in developing a policy or plan to reduce tropical deforestation, including a strategy for funding implementation;
 - f. Demonstrate a commitment to engage Indigenous peoples, local communities, and the private sector in its efforts to reduce deforestation;
 - g. Additional criteria may be developed at the national level in a process led by the GCF Task Force Coordinators and Secretariat.
10. Once the condition in paragraph 8 has been met, the Governor of the jurisdiction must submit a Letter of Interest in Membership to the GCF Task Force Secretariat and GCF Task Force Chair. The letter must explain the state/province's interest in becoming a member and its experiences as an observer, confirm its commitment to the GCF Task Force's goals and objectives, and identify who its two designated GCF Task Force representatives would be. This letter must also demonstrate how all of the criteria in paragraph 9 above are met.
- a. Tropical forest states/provinces should provide background information about their forests, deforestation drivers and rates, experience with low emissions rural development and REDD+, related laws, policies, projects and programs (both existing and planned), what they anticipate contributing and gaining from GCF Task Force membership, and any other relevant information.
 - b. Jurisdictions from developed countries should provide background information about their climate change laws, policies, programs, and activities, what they anticipate contributing and gaining from GCF Task Force membership, and their interest in reduced emissions from tropical deforestation and land use.



11. The letter from the Governor must be accompanied by a letter of support from a founding GCF Task Force member (California, Illinois, Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Pará, Mato Grosso, Aceh, and Papua) that explains why the state/province should be admitted to the GCF Task Force. Jurisdictions are encouraged to participate in GCF Task Force activities and interact with GCF Task Force members during their time as an observer to help facilitate this process.
12. Both letters must be received one month prior to the first day of GCF Task Force Annual Meeting.
13. The GCF Task Force Secretariat will present the letters to the GCF Task Force members for their consideration before the GCF Task Force Annual Meeting, where voting on new membership occurs. The jurisdiction will continue to be an observer during this time period before the vote.
14. Votes on new members must take place at the GCF Task Force Annual Meeting, except under special circumstances. A representative from the jurisdiction seeking membership will have the opportunity to present their candidacy at the Annual Meeting at which the vote will take place.
15. New members must be accepted by consensus.
16. New members will have the same rights as founding members, with the exception of the ability to nominate a new member.
17. New members are required to adopt all key GCF Task Force documents such as the [Joint Action Plan](#), [Stakeholder Policy](#), [Guiding Principles for Collaboration and Partnership between Subnational Governments, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities](#), the [Rio Branco Declaration](#), the [Manaus Action Plan](#), the [GCF Task Force Gender Policy: Women for Forests and Climate](#); and other GCF Task Force governance documents.
18. New members are expected to engage as outlined in Section I.B.3. (GCF Task Force Members & Representatives) of the GCF Task Force Governance Policy.