

## **MEMORANDUM OF PARTNERSHIP**

Between the  
**Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force**  
and  
**Alianza MX**

### **Purpose**

1. The Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force Secretariat ("GCF Task Force") and Alianza MX (each a "Participant" and, together the "Participants") aim to work together to advance partnerships between subnational governments and academic institutions, in particular through research universities in California and Mexico. One of our top priorities is to develop knowledge exchanges between universities, faculty, and students, so that together we can construct measurable metrics and applied research agendas and evaluate the results of our actions on the ground – especially in a way that bolsters and advances transparent and effective subnational climate action.
2. This partnership will help train the next generation of leaders in Mexico and California on sustainability, climate change, and natural resources management, with a particular focus on the following actions:
  - a. Fostering student exchanges, including internships, on climate, forest, and governance topics;
  - b. Developing a longer-term research agenda that build on the needs of GCF Task Force member states in Mexico; and
  - c. Supporting civil servants and partners through universities in Mexico and the University of California system on applied problem solving to reduce emissions, improve forest and other land-management governance, and create sustainable economic and environmental benefits for communities.
3. Given Alianza MX's role within the University of California system, as well as the State of California's historic engagement with Mexican States through the GCF Task Force and other initiatives, developing a partnership between the GCF Task Force and Alianza MX provides an unparalleled opportunity to leverage our actions, strengthen intergovernmental and inter-university knowledge exchange, research, and collaboration, and better assess the impacts of current and future actions. This partnership will also serve as a model that may support inter-university collaboration across the broader GCF Task Force network.

### **Participants**

1. The GCF Task Force is the world's largest subnational governmental network focused on forests and climate, with 43 members from 11 countries. Our largest membership base is from Brazil (9 states), with other subnational governmental members around the world including Peru (7 regions), Mexico (7 states), Colombia (1 department), Ecuador (3 provinces), Indonesia (7 provinces), Côte d'Ivoire (2 states), Nigeria (1 state), Spain (1 province), Bolivia (3 departments), and the United States, which includes the founding member of the State of California where the GCF Task Force began in 2008. The seven member states in Mexico are: Campeche, Chiapas, Jalisco, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, Tabasco,

and Yucatan. The GCF Task Force works with Governors, civil servants, and key stakeholders, including NGOs, private sector leaders, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities partners, to reduce deforestation and tropical greenhouse gas emissions while advancing low-carbon economies and sustainable, forest-based development. The GCF Task Force is a project of the University of California, Los Angeles.

2. Alianza MX is a systemwide initiative of the University of California (UC) that seeks to support the UC's role as Mexico's primary institutional research and scientific partner; mobilize talent and funding for U.S.-Mexico research teams, who explore new ideas and create new knowledge across diverse areas, from Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math to social science, the arts and humanities; contribute to UC's efforts to train a future generation of researchers, who understand the reality on both sides of the border; and through binational, action-research programs, provide innovative solutions to challenges facing the United States and Mexico in issues such as: climate change, energy transition, and biodiversity conservation. Alianza MX also seeks to promote an innovation and entrepreneurship agenda for economic and social prosperity; foster a binational workforce, through two-way US-Mexico student and professor mobility programs; and engage with the private and public sectors and other stakeholders on both sides of the border to build resilient and informed public policies, advancing the US-Mexico cooperation agenda.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

1. Through this Partnership, the GCF Task Force intends to accomplish the following:
  - a. Facilitate participation of interested GCF Task Force member states in Mexico, through Governors, Environmental Secretaries, civil servants, students, academics, and other actors in the partnership with Alianza MX.
  - b. Co-create a workplan for accomplishing the three action areas identified under the purpose section of this Memorandum of Partnership. This would include supporting student and faculty exchanges and establishing and facilitating the working group on the longer-term research agenda made up of academics, civil servants from Mexican GCF Task Force states, and other interested partners.
  - c. Participate in working group discussions and implementation of workplans with Alianza MX.
  - d. Conduct joint fundraising efforts as needed, and where feasible, with Alianza MX to support this partnership.
2. Through this Partnership, Alianza MX intends to accomplish the following:
  - a. Facilitate engagement of academic institutions in California and Mexico with Mexican GCF Task Force states.
  - b. Assess existing Alianza MX programs, such as its Climate Ambassadors program, to determine if student engagement can fit into existing programs.
  - c. Co-create a workplan for accomplishing the three action areas identified under the purpose section of this Memorandum of Partnership. This would include supporting student and faculty exchanges and establishing and facilitating the working group on the longer-term research agenda made up of academics, civil servants from Mexican GCF Task Force states, and other interested partners.

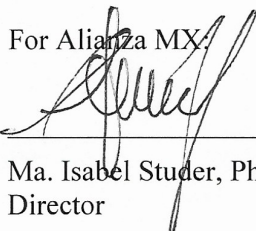
- d. Participate in working group discussions and implementation of workplans with the GCF Task Force.
- e. Conduct joint fundraising efforts as needed, and where feasible, with Alianza MX to support this partnership.
- f. Support student engagement between the UC system and universities in GCF Task Force states in Mexico.
- g. Where feasible and appropriate, support decision-makers in interested GCF Task Force member jurisdictions in their natural resources and land-management decisions.

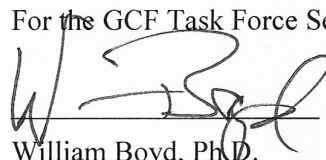
### Implementation

1. The Participants intend to establish a leadership working group by the end of June 2023 to develop a joint workplan.
2. The Participants will also jointly assess whether additional documentation (e.g., a Memorandum of Understanding) and/or procedures are necessary to implement this partnership.
3. Nothing in this Memorandum of Partnership creates an obligation of funds, nor does it constitute a legally binding commitment by any Participant or create any rights in any third party. Importantly, this Memorandum does not create any obligation by or for any GCF Task Force member jurisdiction.

### Points of Contact

The primary Points of Contact for each Participant for administering this Memorandum of Partnership appear below. Each Participant may, by written notice, replace or identify additional representatives.

For Alianza MX:  
  
Ma. Isabel Studer, Ph.D.  
Director

For the GCF Task Force Secretariat:  
  
William Boyd, Ph.D.  
Professor of Law  
GCF Task Force Project Lead

The Participants, each acting through its duly authorized representative, have caused this Memorandum of Partnership to be signed in their names and delivered as of this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.