



GCF Task Force Annual Meeting

Accessing Subnational Climate Finance through Jurisdictional REDD+: Urgency, Unity, and Diversity

Statement Proposal

v.f.

We, governors and representatives of member jurisdictions of the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force (GCF Task Force), gathered in Caquetá, Colombia, reaffirm our collective commitments to reduce deforestation, increase restoration, co-create and scale solutions and results-based actions with Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and advance our climate and development goals as expressed in the [Manaus Action Plan for a New Forest Economy](#). As subnational governments, we bear direct responsibility for the actions that will determine whether the world meets its emission reduction targets — and we have proven, through jurisdictional REDD+ programs spanning more than a decade, that our approach delivers measurable results. Accordingly, we urge our various partners and the international community to redouble their efforts to deliver REDD+ finance to our jurisdictions at the scale and pace necessary to maintain and extend these results.

Approaching REDD+ as a jurisdictional policy means that it is not merely one among many climate instruments; it can be a survival asset for forest peoples and a critical tool for the entire environmental management program for our territories. While we recognize that jurisdictional REDD+ payments are not a panacea, the process of developing and implementing these jurisdictional approaches represents one of the few existing policy pathways capable of generating immediate, results-based finance that supports reductions in emissions from the land use, land use change, and forestry sectors and one of the few that reaches indigenous and traditional communities on the ground. The very essence of a jurisdictional REDD+ program – which by definition requires the co-creation of legal, policy, and program requirements, extensive consultations and co-design efforts between government, communities, civil society, and the private sector, and robust benefit sharing agreements between all of these actors – is that such a program purposefully links forest conservation and climate justice.

Yet we seem to be stuck in a paradox. Despite its proven effectiveness, jurisdictional REDD+ faces resistance born from insufficient information, legal uncertainty, and institutional paralysis — an "anatomy of paralysis" where bureaucratic bottlenecks and risk-aversion from oversight bodies block compensation flows, creating environmental setbacks instead of progress. This is exacerbated by a fundamental asymmetry in the global climate finance architecture: those who bear the significant operational and opportunity costs of forest conservation are rarely those who control the financial mechanisms or the ever-changing interpretations of what constitutes "high-integrity" climate action.

A recent analysis of emission reduction goals within countries' National Determined Contributions (NDCs) reveals a stark reality: implementing national climate targets requires massive and urgent investment, yet current financial frameworks fail to channel resources directly

to the subnational level – including both governments and communities. This gap between ambition and means of implementation is not a national problem alone; it is a systemic structural challenge shared by forest jurisdictions globally.

As we have done since the beginning of the GCF Task Force, we reiterate a key principle from the Manaus Action Plan: “Our efforts to build a New Forest Economy are based on comprehensive, jurisdiction-wide approaches.” Jurisdictional strategies and investment plans, including jurisdictional REDD+ programs, provide overarching institutional and legal frameworks that link forest protection, biodiversity, livelihood generation, and governance in an integrated manner. The development of these jurisdictional approaches necessarily engages local stakeholders and increasingly seeks to integrate Indigenous knowledge systems that enhance both the effectiveness and equity of forest management. These bottom-up approaches help to derisk investment in our jurisdictions. They also complement top-down policies and are aligned with international climate frameworks such as the Paris Agreement.

Based on our deep experience in the design of these jurisdictional approaches, we affirm the following key principles:

- **Unity in purpose, diversity in design.** While sharing priorities, technical principles, and alignment of values, each subnational government operates within unique legal frameworks, ecological contexts, social configurations, and economic realities. Our jurisdictional REDD+ initiatives reflect these nuances — and international climate finance must accommodate this diversity rather than imposing one-size-fits-all solutions.
- **Additionality must be safeguarded.** Emission reductions achieved by subnational jurisdictions beyond national baselines must be recognized and compensated. These reductions cannot be absorbed into national NDC accounting without adequate compensation, as this would capture the very “additionality” that makes jurisdictional REDD+ financially viable.
- **Finance must reach the forest level.** The current climate finance architecture remains excessively centralized, with high transaction costs and complex bureaucratic requirements that disproportionately burden subnational entities and the communities we serve. We call for simplified, direct-access mechanisms that reward verified performance. We included ideas on how this can be done in our [Blueprint for a New Forest Economy](#).
- **Legal security is the foundation.** Without stable and predictable regulatory frameworks, jurisdictional REDD+ cannot fulfill its potential. We commit to strengthening the legal-institutional architecture of our programs — including Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes, transparent benefit-sharing mechanisms, and robust safeguard systems — and we call on international partners to support this foundational work. We already have examples to share from across our network.
- . While jurisdictional REDD+ provides critical short-to-medium-term finance, it must be integrated into a broader transition toward a New Forest Economy. The opportunity cost of forest conservation — borne by producers, states, and communities — must be compensated through predictable, long-term financial instruments, such as the Tropical Forest Forever Facility.

We call upon our respective national governments, civil society partners, local organizations, multilateral climate funds, and carbon market actors to recognize the indispensable role of subnational jurisdictions in achieving global climate goals. The window for action is narrowing; jurisdictional REDD+ is time-limited by its very nature — as deforestation declines, its

leverage diminishes. The choice before the international community is clear: invest in jurisdictional REDD+ now or face the loss of the best operational tool we currently have to keep forests standing.

Caquetá, Colombia, May 22, 2026.