GCF Task Force 16th Annual Meeting
New Forest Economy Working Sessions Report[1]

Caquetá, Colombia

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Executive Summary

At the 16th Annual Meeting of the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force (GCF Task Force) in Caquetá, Colombia, member states and provinces, Indigenous and local community leaders, private sector actors, and civil society organizations convened to co-construct targeted, New Forest Economy investment and capacity mechanisms across the tropics. Building on the **Manaus Action Plan for a New Forest Economy** (2022), and the four building blocks outlined in **Blueprint for a New Forest Economy** (2024), the working sessions were organized in five themes:

1. Establishing a Thriving Bioeconomy
2. Sustaining Natural Infrastructure
3. Restoration and Resilience

[1] This report is based on both human notes and AI-generated transcriptions and notes.

4. Sustainable Commodities
5. Enabling Conditions for the New Forest Economy

These sessions were designed to build on subnational governments' expertise in the realities of their jurisdictions and to connect these realities to new partnerships and investment opportunities. These types of meaningful interaction and co-construction processes have never been more important. As tropical deforestation continues to rise, threatening our very existence, we need inclusive, sustainable, forest-based economic, social, and governance solutions at scale more than ever before.

Several cross-cutting barriers were identified:

- **High preparation and readiness costs**: Financial hurdles, such as high upfront costs for JREDD+ validation/verification and EUDR compliance, constrain subnational scale-up and smallholder involvement
- **Fragmented systems and unaligned data**: A persistent lack of alignment across monitoring platforms and governance frameworks creates delays and incompatibility across systems.
- **Risks of smallholder exclusion**: Complex due diligence, high certification costs, and digital infrastructure gaps in rural areas risk pushing small-scale producers out of formal supply chains
- **Political and institutional instability**: Political turnover frequently threatens long-term policy continuity, public trust, and sustained implementation.

Jurisdictional advancements were also identified:

- **Innovations in jurisdictional tools:** Jurisdictions are deploying digital tools to address compliance and traceability (e.g., Mato Grosso's CAR Digital 2.0 and Green Passport, Acre's Green Seal/Selo Verde, Santa Cruz's Comprehensive Monitoring Center and early warning system, and Michoacán's Guardian Forestal system).
- **Innovative funding mechanisms:** Strategic financial models are emerging to funnel resources directly to local actors and communities, including the Amazon Future Fund in Ecuador and regional mechanisms like the Agroecology Fund of the Yucatan Peninsula (FAPY).
- **Shift to sustainable production:** Jurisdictions are scaling regenerative agriculture and sustainable commodity programs, leveraging local branding (e.g., Jalisco's CaLibre deforestation-free meat) and market drivers like EUDR readiness to formalize value chains while improving market access for small-scale producers.
- **Inclusion of Indigenous and traditional practices:** Indigenous knowledge and systems like *chagras* in Vaupés, Colombia, and traditional production of non-timber

forest products in Peru are being integrated into broader bioeconomy and restoration frameworks.

1. Establishing a Thriving Bioeconomy

From Planning to Implementation: Strategies for Investment and Durability to Promote Socio-Bioeconomy Development, Part 1 & 2

See full bioeconomy sessions report here:

https://www.gcftf.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/GCFTF-16th-AM-Bioeconomy-Working-Sessions-report.pdf

The bioeconomy session took place over two days and participants were split into groups to discuss the following topics:

- Why Bioeconomy Development Needs Subnational Leadership and What Subnational Leaders Need to Deliver It
    - Subnational leadership is essential for building a sustainable bioeconomy because it grounds policy in specific territorial realities, allowing for the effective prioritization of strategic products and the integration of infrastructure with conservation needs. Achieving this transition requires leaders to overcome financial bottlenecks and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships that empower local communities while measuring success through combined economic, social, and environmental indicators.

- Creating Conditions and Connecting Viable Investment Pathways: Communities, Governments, and Investors
    - Bridging the gap between forest communities and global investment requires creating enabling conditions, such as clear regulatory frameworks and robust territorial governance, alongside targeted capacity-building for local enterprises. The agenda for the next two years should focus on practical mechanisms to connect communities and capital. This may include technical assistance, catalytic financing, project preparation funds, investment platforms, and partnerships with actors specialized in small enterprises and value chains.

- Community Forest Economies: Rethinking Regulation and Land-Use Governance
    - To expand community participation in forest economies, regulatory frameworks must be simplified through flexible, territory-specific reforms that reduce

procedural burdens while maintaining necessary environmental safeguards. Furthermore, successful land-use governance requires integrating traditional and Indigenous knowledge with scientific innovation and legal certainty, ensuring that local communities can engage in sustainable value chains without compromising their territorial rights or cultural priorities.

- Regional Hubs and a GCF Task Force Bioeconomy Facility: Drawing on Experience to Design the Future
    - In Colombia, the priority is to consolidate a functional platform that connects actors, addresses gaps, accelerates enterprises, activates demand, and articulates public instruments, cooperation, science, companies, and grassroots organizations.
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2. Sustaining Natural Infrastructure

a. Advances in Jurisdictional REDD+

MODERATORS:

- Syahrina D. Anggraini, GCF Task Force Indonesia Country Director
- Carlos Aragon, GCF Task Force Brazil Country Director

SPEAKERS:

- Lucia Madrid, Associate Director, Safeguards and IPLC Engagement Team Lead, Winrock/ART/TREES
- Fermin Chimatani Tayori, GCF Task Force IPLC Global Committee member and President of La Asociación Nacional de los Ejecutores de Contratos de Administración de las Reservas Comunales del Perú (ANECAP)
- Florian Reber, SVP, Business Development and Partnerships, Chloris Geospatial
- Sassan Saatchi, CEO, CTrees
- Marcello de Lima Lelis, Secretary of the Environment, Water Resources, and Climate, Tocantins, Brazil
- Daniel Graf Peréz, Director General of Natural Resources, Jalisco, Mexico
- Edu Effiom, Director General, Cross River State Council on Climate Change, Nigeria
- Andrés Coloma, Director of Environmental Management, Pastaza, Ecuador
- Jaksilande Araújo de Lima, President of the Institute on Climate Change (IMC), Acre, Brazil

PARTICIPANTS:

- Mariano Cirone, Safeguards Specialist, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Shannon Dilley, Chief Counsel and Tribal Liaison, California Air Resources Board, USA

- Francisca Oliveira de Lima Costa, Special Secretary for Indigenous Peoples - SEPI, Acre, Brazil
- Haerul Arifin Abdullah, KEPALA BIDANG EKONOMI DAN PEMBANGUNAN, Papua Barat, Indonesia
- Estiko Wiradyo, Head of the Planning Division, Forestry and Environment Agency, Papua, Indonesia
- Jimmy Walter Susanto, Kepala Dinas Kehutanan, Papua Barat, Indonesia
- Gustavo Sánchez, GCF Task Force IPLC Global Committee member and President of Red MOCAF

This working session focused on climate finance mechanisms, the implementation of jurisdictional REDD+ programs, the technical and methodological requirements of the ART TREES standard, technological monitoring tools, and the institutional conditions necessary to access results-based payments.

ART/TREES Standard

ART/TREES is a rigorous, high-integrity standard for JREDD+ initiatives that requires a high degree of technical and institutional capabilities. For jurisdictions seeking to attain the ART/TREES standard, four success factors were highlighted:

- Direct communication with the ART Secretariat;
- Early participation of local actors, especially Indigenous peoples and local communities;
- Capacity assessment before moving towards verification; and

- Preparation for independent evaluation by organizing verifiable documentation systematically and designing participation strategies.

Technology, remote monitoring and data harmonization

Earth observation technologies were acknowledged as strategic tools for measuring deforestation, degradation, biomass, carbon and program performance, however, there is a lack of harmonization between national data, standards requirements, registries, and investors. Priority actions to address this challenge include:

- Integrating remote sensors, historical series, and official systems to build robust and transparent baseline; and
- Standardizing criteria across jurisdictions, standards, and investors to facilitate due diligence and financial decision-making.

Jurisdictional experiences

- Peru presented an Indigenous REDD+ initiative focused on High Forest cover, Low Deforestation (HFLD) territories, led by Indigenous organizations and coordinated with the Ministry of Environment (MINAM).
- Tocantins, Brazil, demonstrated how pre-investment allowed for the development of territorial intelligence, social consultation, and information systems such as the Geographic Intelligence Center for Environmental Management (Centro de Inteligência Geográfica em Gestão do Meio Ambiente, CIGMA). https://cigma.to.gov.br/
- Jalisco emphasized that REDD+ can be useful even if the volume of credits is smaller because it organizes public policy and reinforces the reduction of deforestation and degradation.
- Cross River State, Nigeria, highlighted the challenges of coordination between federal and subnational governments, as well as the need for productive solutions, such as biochar and fast growing plantations, to address pressure on primary forests.
- Pastaza, Ecuador, highlighted community conservation, high native vegetation cover, and collaboration with peoples and nationalities in a hard-to-reach territory.
- Acre presented the State System of Incentives for Environmental Services (Sistema de Incentivos a Serviços Ambientais, SISA) as a consolidated architecture of governance, payments for results, profit sharing and social participation.

Barriers

- High cost (Jalisco, Mexico, noted that their costs are up to approximately $150k so far.)
- JREDD+ requires networking, peer learning, transparency, strong safeguards, and ongoing technical support.

- There is a need to reduce misinformation and improve public communication on the integrity of the jurisdictional approach.
- Social participation should not be limited to validating documents, but should become an institutionalized, budgeted, and culturally appropriate process.

Priority Actions to Advance

- Consolidate financial mechanisms that allow for coverage of readiness, technical preparation, consultations, and verification.
- Strengthen the institutional framework that guarantees continuity beyond political and administrative changes.
- Design transparent, participatory and culturally appropriate benefit distribution mechanisms.
- Integrate production systems, fire management, sustainable livestock farming, conservation, restoration and monitoring as part of jurisdictional REDD+ strategies.
- Create a community of practice or thematic working groups within the GCF Task Force for ongoing technical exchange.
- Develop a database with a repository of documents, best practices, templates, examples, and lessons learned.
- Explore a GCF Task Force revolving fund to support preparation, registration, validation, and verification phases.
- Strengthen negotiation capabilities with the private sector and investors, including clear due diligence frameworks.
- Establish information transparency and communication protocols to regain public trust. This includes managing community expectations responsibly, avoiding premature promises about income from carbon credits.
- Provide investors with performance metrics, risk filtering, and reliable evidence.

b. Building Funding Mechanisms for Climate and Forest Protection: Co-management and Design

MODERATORS:

- Jason Gray, Project Director, GCF Task Force
- Bruno Paladines, Country Director, Ecuador, GCF Task Force
- Gustavo Sánchez, GCF Task Force IPLC Global Committee member and President of Red MOCAF

SPEAKERS:

- Basilio Velázquez Chi, GCF Task Force IPLC Global Committee member and Yucatan Peninsula Agroecological Fund (Fondo Agroecológico Península de Yucatán, FAPY)
- Neyra Silva Rosado, Secretary of Sustainable Development, State of Yucatán, Mexico

This working session focused on climate finance mechanisms, the implementation of jurisdictional REDD+ programs, the technical and methodological requirements of the ART TREES standard, technological monitoring tools, and the institutional conditions necessary to access results-based payments.

A regional funding mechanism in Yucatán, Mexico

The Agroecology Fund of the Yucatan Peninsula (Fondo Agroecológico Península de Yucatán, FAPY) acts as a regional mechanism that receives resources from donors and channels them to community organizations, cooperatives, producer organizations, Indigenous communities, peasant organizations, and collaborative networks. FAPY ensures that communities receive direct funds by providing small grants of $20-30k for agroecological production, capacity building, market access, collaborative partnerships, and public policy advocacy.

Amazon Future Fund (Fondo Futuro Amazónico; FFA)

The FFA is an innovative conservation fund that gives Indigenous peoples (Shiwiar, Andwa, Sapara, and Achuar Nations); and provincial governments (Morona Santiago, Pastaza, and

Zamora Chinchipe) equal power and ensures long-term protection of Ecuador's Amazon. It is designed to support: Indigenous Life Plans, provincial conservation management plans, and REDD+ implementation across GCF Task Force jurisdictions in Ecuador. The trust structure aims to safeguard public resources, leverage international cooperation and private donors, strengthen management capacities, and ensure that resources reach communities and territories. It is also gender-balanced, with participation from prefectures, Indigenous nationalities, and constituent organizations.

Alternative financial mechanisms for direct funding

The Community Land Rights and Conservation Finance Initiative (CLARIFI), an initiative of the Rights and Resources Initiative and Campaign for Nature, mobilizes flexible public and private funds directly to Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities, and local communities. CLARIFI also supports the Mesoamerican Territorial Fund, an alternative financial mechanism designed by the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (Alianza Mesoamericana de Pueblos y Bosques, AMPB), by and for IPLCs. A forestry microbank in Puebla was established to reduce dependence on donations and build community financial literacy.

3. Sustainable Commodities

a. Overcoming Traceability Challenges: Preparing for EUDR Implementation

MODERATORS:

- Rosa Maria Vidal, Senior Advisor, GCF Task Force Mexico
- Akane Nishimura, Program Associate, Impact Assessment, GCF Task Force
- Pilar Saez Choquehuanca, GCF Task Force Peru and Alternative Development Mechanisms (Mecanismos de Desarrollo Alternos, MDA)

SPEAKERS:

- Rosa Olguita Celiz Cruz, Vicegovernor, San Martín, Peru
- Alejandro Mendez Lopez, Secretary of the Environment, Michoacán, Mexico
- Leonardo das Neves Carvalho, Secretary of the Environment, Acre, Brazil
- Alex Sandro Antonio Marega, Executive Secretary for the Environment, Mato Grosso, Brazil
- Lina Peñuela, Coordinator, Amazon Regional Fund - UK PACT, British Embassy in Bogota
- Jorge Carillo, Technical Advisor, GiZ

- Angélica Narváez, Director - Bioeconomy Pillar, Alisos
- Guilherme Ponce, Outreach Leader, CDP
- Daniel Bedoya, National Representative for Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

PARTICIPANTS:

- Stefan Lees, Managing Director, Life Systems
- Jorge Vásquez, AICS Bogotá
- Fakhri Rhamadian Hidayat, Country Coordination, GCF Task Force Indonesia
- Yarely Ortiz Guerrero, Regional Coordinator, Alisos
- Carlos Blandón, Program Head, FSC Indigenous Foundation
- Diego Pacheco, Government of Caquetá, Colombia
- Roberth Helder, Government of Caquetá, Colombia
- Henry Bloomfield, GCF Task Force Bolivia Country Director and Assistant Technical Director for Fundación Natura Bolivia

International regulations and commitments, especially those related to deforestation-free markets, are reshaping market access conditions for commodities such as cocoa, coffee, beef, soy, palm oil, rubber, timber, and avocados. The implementation of traceability takes place at the local level and requires local capacity, data interoperability, national and subnational coordination, private sector participation, and mechanisms that include small-scale producers.

Such regulations, including the European Union Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR), are an opportunity to streamline production chains, strengthen information systems, build trust, and connect sustainable production with market access. There are, however, significant challenges, as traceability requires addressing issues of governance, legality, land tenure, system interoperability, access to connectivity, technical capacity, compliance costs, and coordination between levels of government.

This working session builds on our EUDR-readiness webinars, which were held in March and May of 2026.

Partner perspectives

GiZ shared their experiences from the Team Europe Initiative on Deforestation-free Value Chains (TEI), which supports partner countries in the fair implementation of EUDR. Traceability must be farmer-centered, institutionally anchored, and built on open shared infrastructure. The building blocks for a zero-deforestation global Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) already exist, but we need alignment, governance, and scale.

CDP addressed the alignment of corporate and government reporting with EUDR requirements, noting that due diligence relies on information gathering, risk identification, and mitigation. https://www.cdp.net/api/file/cdp-policy-explainer-on-the-eu-deforestation-regulation

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) presented its certification tools, which are widely accepted and have a high rate of global consumer recognition. FSC Certification serves as a strong foundation for EUDR compliance with some FSC requirements (IPLC rights and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), worker rights, etc.) going beyond those of EUDR. Optional FSC add-on modules can bring companies into full EUDR-compliance.

Policy, Systemic Approaches, and Enabling Conditions

The British Embassy in Colombia shared lessons learned from sustainable livestock programs and deforestation-free supply chains. The central message was that traceability cannot be achieved solely through technology or direct work with producers; it requires a systemic approach involving public policy, financial instruments, technical assistance, consumers, research centers, local banks, retailers, and distributors. In addition, scaling must be linked to policy decisions, financial incentives, market demand, and monitoring, reporting, and verification protocols. The recent approval of the Livestock Traceability Law was highlighted as a transformative opportunity.

Examples from Colombia

Alisos presented the experience of the National Cocoa Traceability Roundtable, associated with the Zero Deforestation Cocoa Agreement signed by Colombia in 2017. The roundtable, which brought together actors from the public sector, industry, producers, exporters, civil society and

international cooperation, produced a legality guide, an analysis of deforestation alerts using georeferenced information, and a sector-specific repository managed by the National Federation of Cocoa Growers. It was also noted that similar tools exist for coffee and palm oil production.

https://legalitynavigator.efi.int/colombia-legality-due-diligence-tool-cocoa/
https://federaciondecafeteros.org/
https://sica.federaciondecafeteros.org/

Jurisdictional Needs in Peru

San Martín raised concerns about centralized approaches and stated that regional governments do not always participate effectively in national systems. It was also noted that international funding to national ministries does not always reach jurisdictions or translate into tangible results at the local level. New GCF Task Force member La Libertad presented its vision of traceability and increasing value-added, sustainable agricultural exports supported by technical assistance, biotechnology and organizing and strengthening of small farmers.

Voluntary certification and market pressure
Michoacán, Mexico, presented the case of avocado production, a supply chain that puts significant pressure on cloud forests and pine-oak forests. The state government worked with NGO Guardian Forestal to develop a remote sensing-based alert system and a voluntary certification (Pro-Forest Avocado). Despite Michoacán's insufficient resources and lack of direct authority to regulate the entire supply chain, it managed to get approximately 90% of exports certified, relying on market pressure, alliances with civil society organizations, and shifting US consumer preferences.

Integrating governance and data
Many EUDR requirements are already being met under Código Florestal, a national level Brazilian law that regulates the protection and sustainable use of forests and native vegetation. Acre presented a strategy based on two pillars: the Integrated System of Environment and Climate Change (Sistema Integrado de Meio Ambiente e Mudanças do Clima, SIMAMC), which brings together seven agencies under a single governance framework, and the implementation of Green Seal (Selo Verde), a free jurisdictional traceability system. This tool integrates existing data from satellite-based deforestation monitoring, the Rural Environmental Registry (Cadastro Ambiental Rural, CAR), environmental embargoes, and information related to forced labor to produce free and verifiable environmental compliance certificates for producers. One remaining challenge is how to reduce the market access gap for small cocoa and coffee producers.

Scaling Sustainable Commodities

Mato Grosso, the biggest agricultural producer state in Brazil, presented a case of large-scale production while recognizing that traceability must be addressed by product and by supply chain, as no single solution will work for all commodities. To address issues of scale and traceability, Mato Grosso developed CAR Digital 2.0 with automated validation and cross-referencing of georeferenced information to significantly reduce registry processing times. The state also created the Green Passport (Passaporte Verde), designed for individual cattle identification and tracking throughout the entire production cycle: birth, transport, fattening, and slaughter. The goal is to close the gap with indirect suppliers, who account for a significant portion of the deforestation risk.

Barriers

- Fragmentation of information among entities and lack of interoperability between monitoring platforms and systems.
- Lack of interoperability between systems and absence of common methodologies on geolocation, forest definition, deforestation alerts, legality and due diligence.
- Limited effective coordination between national and subnational governments.
- Gaps in connectivity, digital infrastructure and technical capabilities in rural production areas.
- Compliance costs that may exclude small producers or concentrate benefits in large and better organized actors.
- Legal uncertainty regarding land, incomplete land registries, and difficulty in validating property information.
- Lack of awareness or differing interpretations of due diligence requirements, with the risk that each buyer will impose different formats.
- Limited sanctioning or control capacity in territories where productive expansion intersects with illegal economies, land use change, or historical deforestation practices.
- Weak incorporation of the territorial financial sector and consumers into traceability and sustainability strategies.
- Risk that traceability will be understood solely as a commercial requirement, without integrating rights, legality, communities and productive transformation.

Priority Actions

- Define a GCF Task Force roadmap for traceability and deforestation-free products, differentiating enabling conditions, subnational role and requirements by production chain.
- Positioning the GCF Task Force as a platform for exchanging solutions and lessons learned, e.g. Green Seal, Digital CAR, Green Passport, and Guardian Florestal.

- Strengthen interoperability between information systems, including data on properties, producers, forest monitoring, legality, certifications, embargoes and commercial traceability.
- Promote multi-stakeholder roundtables for each production chain, with the participation of producers, governments, trade associations, buyers, cooperation agencies, civil society, the financial sector, and data platforms.
- Promote the development or strengthening of subnational databases that can engage with national systems and meet international demands.
- Design technical assistance mechanisms for small producers, with emphasis on georeferencing, legality, use of platforms, regularization and sustainable production practices.
- Create or adapt financial instruments that allow producers to meet traceability requirements, convert production systems and access verifiable certifications or reports.
- Develop common guidelines for due diligence, legality, and monitoring, avoiding duplication of requirements among buyers and reducing administrative burdens.
- Strengthening the traceability of indirect suppliers in complex chains, especially cattle farming, where the risk is not limited to the direct supplier of the slaughterhouse or final buyer.
- Ensure that traceability includes social and rights components, not just verification of non-deforestation.

b. Regenerative Approaches: Cattle, Agriculture, and Access to Markets

MODERATORS:

- Rosa Maria Vidal, Senior Advisor, GCF Task Force Mexico
- Carlos Aragon, GCF Task Force Brazil Country Director

SPEAKERS:

- Arturo Tovar, Global Business Development and Innovation Initiatives Lead, LandScale, Rainforest Alliance
- Guilherme Ponce, Outreach Leader, CDP
- Lina Peñuela, Coordinator, Amazon Regional Fund - UK PACT, British Embassy in Bogota

- Juan Pablo Jaramillo, Secretary of the Environment and Agriculture, Department of Caquetá, Colombia
- Kaoma Martinez Romero, Secretary of Agriculture and Productive Development, Department of Vaupés, Colombia
- Daniel Graf Peréz, Director General of Natural Resources, Jalisco, Mexico
- Albeiro Pachón Abril, Professional, Secretariat of Agriculture and the Environment, Department of Guaviare, Colombia
- Alex Sandro Antonio Marega, Executive Secretary for the Environment, Mato Grosso, Brazil
- Antero Martínez González, Regional Manager of Natural Resources, Piura, Peru
- Frank Eduardo Sánchez Romero, Regional Manager of the Environment, Regional Government of La Libertad, Peru

PARTICIPANTS:

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- Borghild Tønnessen-Krokan, Senior Advisor, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation - NORAD, Dept. for Climate, Nature and the Private Sector - Forestry Section
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- Jorge Carillo, Technical Advisor, GiZ
- Andrés Santana Bonilla, Senior Manager, Combatting Illegal Deforestation, Amazon Conservation Association

Regenerative approaches must progress from pilot projects and be scaled up to include public policies, market mechanisms, financing instruments, verifiable measurement systems, and territorial strategies capable of generating profits for producers and measurable environmental benefits. The session identified barriers related to measurement, financing, governance, markets, institutional continuity, infrastructure, land tenure, access to technologies, certification costs, and winitial resistance from producers. At the same time, opportunities emerged related to positioning deforestation-free products, differentiated markets, participatory guarantee systems, field schools, the bioeconomy, biofuels, biocultural landscapes, productive restoration, payments for environmental services, and increased private sector interest in landscape approaches.

Data is essential for market credibility

Rainforest Alliance identified three major obstacles: inconsistent methodologies, lengthy timelines, and fragmented governance. The LandScale platform, an initiative of Rainforest Alliance and Conservation International, was presented as a landscape scale option for organizing data, validating information, and communicating results credibly to businesses, investors, and governments. https://www.landscale.org/

CDP complemented this view by noting that the market is beginning to value jurisdictional and landscape approaches, but still faces limitations in paying for practices it cannot verify. State participation was presented as an element that lends legitimacy, reduces the risk of greenwashing, and allows companies and investors to trust the reported results. Data collection is difficult and companies need to be able to measure Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

The Colombian experience

The British Embassy in Bogota shared valuable lessons from their experiences with sustainable and regenerative livestock farming. It was noted that technical assistance packages must be tailored to specific local contexts and with the participation of subnational governments. In the case of local ranchers, a key lesson was the need to work on behavioral change. Producers who initially showed greater willingness to adapt were prioritized, with results serving as proof of concept. The potential of participatory guarantee systems was also highlighted, where communities themselves verify good practices and build local trust.

Caquetá is one of Colombia's main cattle-producing regions, with approximately 2.5 million head of cattle. The departmental government has promoted initiatives focused on modernization, strengthening small and medium-sized producers, establishing conservation agreements, utilizing agricultural machinery, and improving production capacities. The importance of the Colombian Livestock Traceability Law was highlighted as a tool for tracing an animal's origin, its growth, the property where it is raised, and whether the property adheres to deforestation-free practices. It was noted, however, that its implementation must consider local realities such as informal land tenure, the presence of Law Two (a law protecting livestock), parkland areas, and limitations in road infrastructure.

The Vaupés Department of Agriculture and Productive Development proposed a community-based approach based on listening to local needs, water conservation, assessment of traditional farming plots (chagras), technical and cultural agreements, demonstration practices, extension services, knowledge transfer schools, and the participation of communities, women, youth, and families. The Indigenous chagra is a living system of regenerative agriculture, based on ancestral knowledge, cultural management of the territory, soil rest cycles, water conservation, and intergenerational transmission. The chagra is not only as a space for subsistence, but also an opportunity for economic development compatible with conservation and bioeconomy. The central message was that technical expertise should complement traditional knowledge without replacing it.

Although Guaviare has nearly 70% forest cover remaining, it is facing intense pressure from extensive cattle ranching, land grabbing, illegal roads, and land concentration. The department has focused on enabling communities to remain in their territories through sustainable productive activities, responsible forest management, product processing, agroforestry systems, forest plantations, and regenerative livestock farming. Indigenous communities, Ruling 4360, and zero-deforestation certification are key pathways to accessing differentiated markets. It was

noted that small-scale producers tend to receive greater institutional support, but large actors can deforest hundreds of hectares and reverse the progress made by many families.

Jalisco's Experience: Field Schools, Deforestation-Free Meat and Productive Restoration

A majority of Jalisco's forest cover change and degradation are associated with livestock farming, so the state developed a Sustainable Livestock Strategy with four lines of action, including deforestation-free beef, field schools, productive restoration, and fire management. Field schools function as learning spaces where neighboring producers learn about bio-inputs, regenerative livestock farming, electric fences, integrated forest management, and agroforestry and silvopastoral systems. This strategy has helped launch a local brand, CaLibre, focused on deforestation-free meat, with operating butcher shops and partnerships with hotels and urban markets. Jalisco also presented a state strategy for restoration, payments for environmental services through matching funds, and biocultural landscapes as conservation instruments not equivalent to protected areas, but relevant for land management, differentiating products, and connecting production with conservation.

Sustainable intensification to mitigate pressure on forest ecosystems

Mato Grosso, Brazil, a major grain and livestock producer, has significantly reduced deforestation while increasing production. The state focused on biofuels, especially corn ethanol, as a strategy to increase productivity without expanding the agricultural frontier. The model integrates soybeans, corn, ethanol, dried distillers grain (DDG), oil, bioelectricity, and livestock. DDG, a protein byproduct of corn ethanol production, is used as animal feed, allowing for the intensification of livestock farming, a reduction in pastureland, and less pressure on forests.

Piura presented an ecological restoration strategy through four public investment projects totaling over 30 million soles, aimed at recovering ecosystem services, water regulation, and vegetation cover in degraded areas of the upper part of the region. The construction of earthen dams as community reservoirs to capture water in highland areas was highlighted, as well as the direct work with rural communities.

Inter-regional cooperation on regenerative goat farming in Peru

Piura, Peru, presented on the Northern Dry Forest Platform, comprising the regions of Cajamarca (non-GCF Task Force member) La Libertad, Lambayeque (observer), Piura, and Tumbes. The group has prioritized five key areas in its plan to promote sustainable and regenerative goat farming: strengthening the production base, sustainable environmental management, market development and financing, organizational and cooperative capacities,

and enabling governance. The platform highlighted the role of the carob tree as a key resource for goat feed and the need to strengthen meat and milk value chains.

4. Enabling Conditions for the New Forest Economy

a. Tackling Forest Illegality: Addressing Access to Land, Improved Governance, Collaboration, and Technology

MODERATORS:

- Juliana Monsalve Páez, Climate and Forest Advisor, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Colombia
- Marius von Essen, Postdoctoral Scholar, UCLA

SPEAKERS:

- Diego Quintero, Head of the Organized Crime Division, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) *joined virtually
- Felipe Botero Escobar, Director, Andean Regional Office, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC)
- Mauricio Mira Pontón, Advisor to the Mayor's Office, Santiago de Cali, Colombia
- Alcy Pinedo, Attorney at the Observatory on Socio-Environmental Conflicts, Foundation for Conservation and Sustainable Development (Fundacion para la Conservacion y el Desarrollo Sostenible; FCDS), Colombia
- Juliana Hurtado R., FCDS, Colombia

Organized crime is increasingly driving global deforestation. Illegal gold mining, land appropriation, logging, cattle ranching, drug and wildlife trafficking, and money laundering operate in an interconnected web that severely threatens forest ecosystems. Illicit economies put territorial security, effective governance, sustainable investments, legal livelihoods, and the safety of Indigenous and local communities at risk.

CONALDEF, an example of inter-institutional coordination in Colombia

The Colombian National Council to Combat Deforestation (Consejo Nacional de Lucha Contra la Deforestación, CONALDEF) was presented as an inter-institutional coordination body with the capacity to coordinate justice, security, environment, monitoring and territorial action in partnership with local communities. The use of technology, geographic information systems, satellite tracking, and real-time analysis was identified as an indispensable component for guiding investigations and operations. To reduce dependence on national mobilization, however, there is still a need for increasing local and regional capacity.

FCDS

The Foundation for Conservation and Sustainable Development (Fundación para la Conservación y el Desarrollo Sostenible, FCDS) addressed the challenges of governance, multidimensional security, and the production of strategic information to combat illegal economies in the Amazon. It was pointed out that illegal economies operate in an organized manner, while institutions tend to respond in a fragmented way. Priority actions include overcoming institutional fragmentation through permanent regional platforms, strengthening

cross-border cooperation, and incorporating civil society organizations to produce strategic information for monitoring, control, research, and public policy.

FCDS presented tools and resources such as their environmental conflicts observatory (https://observatorioamazonia.fcds.org.co/) and their "Amazonía in Dispute" (Amazonía en Disputa) report. FCDS also proposed a virtual meeting with GCF Task Force members to explain the Amazon Forum on Multidimensional Security and to explore the possibility of collaboration.

The importance of legal economic alternatives

Cali, capital of Valle del Cauca, Colombia, shared their experience combating illegal mining in the Farallones de Cali National Natural Park, a strategic ecosystem for the city's and region's water supply. The case demonstrated the importance of combining enforcement measures, technology, payments for environmental services (PES) and green businesses, and collaboration with the national government. In order to compete with illegal economies, Cali increased PES and payments for green businesses for farmers and communities in buffer zones and employed former illegal miners as park rangers and forest rangers. There is also the opportunity to link the private sector through tax incentives for investment in conservation.

A new partnership

The GCF Task Force and the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC), as Technical Secretariat of the Cities and Regions United for Biodiversity: Coalition Against Illicit Economies, concluded the working session by signing a Letter of Intent (LOI) aimed at protecting forests and increasing access to data to combat forest crime. Priority actions include creating a joint workplan for the exchange of experiences, capacity building, and political positioning of subnational governments; identifying GCF Task Force jurisdictions with the greatest exposure to illegal mining, illegal logging, land grabbing, wildlife trafficking, and illicit economies associated with deforestation; and creating technical cooperation mechanisms to help subnational governments better understand their role in combating environmental organized crime.

Priority Actions

- Recognize illegality as a critical enabling condition and formulate a GCF Task Force roadmap on environmental organized crime.
- Mapping hotspots, strengthening gold traceability, pursuing criminal structures and financial flows.

- Strengthen interoperability, unified command posts, regional working groups and local capacities.
- Investigate illegal land division, road openings, land grabbing and illegal land sales.
- Converting satellite monitoring, geoviewers and alerts into decisions for control, judicialization and regulation.
- Strengthen the Amazonian Forum on Multidimensional Security and link subnational governments of the GCF Task Force.
- Scaling up payments for environmental services, green businesses, bioeconomy and reconversion of local actors.
- Implement sensors, camera traps, satellite imagery, and shared control panels.

b. Connecting Non-timber forest products from the Amazon to the Pacific

MODERATORS:

- Francisco Ruiz, Programa TEFOS-UK
- Fernando Ramírez, Programa TEFOS-UK

SPEAKERS:

- Viviana Obando, Manager, RAP Pacífico
- Paola Pulido, British Embassy, Colombia
- Carla Portillo, Ministry of Commerce, Science, and Technology, Colombia
- Isabel González, Ayakuná Women's Association and Caquetá Amazonian Fruit Committee,
- Analiz Santos, Senior Specialist in Legal Affairs and Legal Compliance, Amanatari
- Oseas Barbaran Sánchez, President, Confederación de Nacionalidades Amazónicas del Perú - CONAP
- José Mattos, Executive Director, Viafloresta
- Vladimir Saguma Acha, Governance Coordinator. Dry Forest Project, PROFONANPE

Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) represent an opportunity to strengthen legal, sustainable and culturally relevant livelihoods, provided that the regulatory and financial barriers faced by communities are resolved.

To advance sustainable bioeconomy practices, regulatory frameworks for NTFPs should be reviewed and adapted with community needs at the forefront. This includes implementing participatory processes like authority-led territory visits, community workshops, and verifiable agreements, while also reducing permit costs, simplifying procedures, and creating pathways for

Indigenous and local communities with proven sustainable practices. Additionally, efforts should focus on building community capacities, developing flexible financial mechanisms, fostering regional knowledge exchange, ensuring inclusive participation, and aligning bioeconomy strategies with deforestation prevention, ecosystem restoration, territorial security, and the reduction of illegal economies. Importantly, the Amazon Investor Coalition offered its support for technical exchange processes and coordination with Pan-Amazonian Indigenous organizations.

NTFPs and regulatory barriers in Colombia

Ayakuná, an association of women entrepreneurs, and the Amazonian Fruits Committee presented the experience of a community organization in Belén de los Andaquíes, Caquetá, Colombia. Belén de los Andaquíes has one of the lowest deforestation rates in Caquetá, and the experience of Ayakuná illustrates the direct link between conservation, legal livelihoods, rural women's leadership, and the preservation of standing forests. There are, however, significant regulatory, technical and financial barriers for communities participating in the bioeconomy. Regulations designed to protect genetic resources against biopiracy have made community commercialization, and there is a need to differentiate community processes from large-scale extractive dynamics. There is also a need to reduce the costs of harvesting permits and simplify routes for community organizations, especially when there is evidence of sustainable management.

Addressing gaps between regulations and territorial realities in Loreto, Peru

Amanatari, a Peruvian NGO, presented its work with communities in Loreto, particularly the experience of the Sucusari community in the use of aguaje and aguaje fiber for the production of handicrafts. In Peru, the National Forestry and Wildlife Service defines technical guidelines for the use of NTFPs, while regional governments grant permits. There is a significant gap between the requirements set by the standard and the actual conditions of the communities in the territory. The forms and requirements are complex for communities, and the costs of the process can reach approximately $10,000.

Communities already possess knowledge of sustainable practices and consolidated management systems and should be consulted before guidelines are modified. Amanatari organized a visit by authorities to the Sucusari community in March 2026, which resulted in the establishment of a work plan to update guidelines by August.

CONAP and Indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon

CONAP represents approximately 1000 native communities in the Peruvian Amazon. The emphasized that the Indigenous economy must improve quality of life, while biobusiness must

recognize the culture, traditional knowledge, and organizational autonomy of Indigenous peoples. Land titling and security of tenure remain fundamental conditions for territorial management and effective participation in the bioeconomy.

Recommended priority actions include:

- Simplify administrative processes for permits, financing, and technical assistance.
- Strengthen associations and ventures led by Indigenous women, as they are central actors in income generation, especially through handicrafts, fibers, medicinal plants and other NTFPs.
- Consolidate spaces for effective participation in political spheres.
- Build a regional agenda among Indigenous peoples, local communities, subnational governments, national government and international cooperation agencies.

Bioeconomy in Brazil – from public policy to implementation

The Amazon Investor Coalition highlighted the Brazilian bioeconomy experience and emphasized that bioeconomy did not originate with the recent interest of markets, but is deeply linked to community and Indigenous practices. The importance of demarcation and recognition of territories, regulations on access to genetic heritage and benefit sharing, and the need for traceability to ensure that benefits reach the communities that provide resources were noted.

There is a need to strengthen financial, entrepreneurial, and legal education for Indigenous and traditional communities; to invest in bioeconomy infrastructure; to develop blended finance mechanisms that combine philanthropic capital, public resources, natural capital, and government initiatives; and to promote transregional dialogue between all actors.

Profonanpe and the Dry Forest Project: Multilevel and multi-actor governance in peasant communities

The Dry Forest project was presented as a bioeconomy opportunity beyond the Amazon. Peruvian dry forests are concentrated in the departments of Lambayeque, Piura, and new GCF Task Force members La Libertad and Tumbes. Multilevel and multi-stakeholder governance is a must for sustainable territorial development processes.

Priority actions identified include strengthening territorial technical committees related to dry forest, goat farming, beekeeping, carob and other production chains; coordinating institutions already working in the territory (e.g. CARE Peru, PROCAP, and agro-industrial and hydrobiological companies interested in restoration and sustainable management); increasing regional cooperation by co-designing agendas (e.g. Northern Peru Forests Platform); and developing political advocacy capacity in communities and territorial actors.

5. Restoration and Resilience

a. Integrated Fire Management: From the Amazon to California

MODERATORS:

- Francisco Ruiz, Executive Director, Action for Forest
- Iván Fernández, Coordinator FIIAPP Amazonía+

SPEAKERS:

- Marisol Yabeta Azaeda, Secretary of Sustainable Development and the Environment, Santa Cruz, Bolivia
- Marcos Bauch, Project Coordinator - Global Fire Management Hub, Food and Agriculture Organization - United Nations - FAO
- Hugo Carvajal, Forest Governance Expert for Amazonía+, Expertise France
- Encarnación Porras, Consultant for Amazonía+, FIIAPP
- Vladimir Libreros, Project Coordinator, Action for Forest
- Daniel Melling, Head of Marketing, CTrees
- Fabiano Silva, Consultant, Conservation XLabs

The working session emphasized an urgent shift from reactive, suppression-focused wildfire responses to a systemic, proactive governance model for Integrated Fire Management (IFM) in the Amazon. As climate variability—particularly severe El Niño events—extends fire seasons

and increases ecological risks across Latin America, the participants highlighted that fire management is no longer merely an emergency response issue but a critical component of land-use planning, territorial governance, and climate resilience.

Key stakeholders from subnational governments, Indigenous communities, and international technical agencies (FAO, CTREES, Conservation X Labs) noted that while pilot projects and local best practices exist, the primary challenge is institutionalizing these efforts into permanent public policy. The session underscored the vital role of subnational governments as the bridge between national frameworks and on-the-ground implementation. By integrating ancestral knowledge with modern technological tools (such as satellite-based monitoring and fuel mapping), subnational entities can transform fire from a threat into a manageable element of territorial health. The meeting reinforced that achieving this requires moving away from fragmented, project-based funding toward sustained, multi-stakeholder alliances that prioritize prevention, capacity building, and regional cooperation.

CTrees
CTrees is a California-based nonprofit organization that has mapped the biomass on every hectare of land on Earth. They have several datasets that are available as open resources including Land Use Change Alerts (LUCA), which detects changes in the forest due to fire or deforestation and degradation every few weeks. Beyond science, research, and data development, CTrees focuses on nature-based solutions, such as the jurisdictional REDD+ assessments.

Recently, they have also focused on fire prevention with three aspects: fuel mapping (living and dead vegetation), moisture monitoring, and modeling fire behavior based on results of fuel and moisture mapping.

Conservation X Labs (CXL)
A new CXL investment fund called South America Fire Fund will finance fire prevention and resilient governance actions in priority areas of the Amazon, Pantanal, and Chiquitania in Brazil, Bolivia, and Peru. The fund's objective is to verify the effectiveness of a set of systemic actions in these focus municipalities. The ultimate three-year goal is to prove that it is possible to scale up the dynamics of forest fires with philanthropic donations and coordination with municipal, state, and federal governments.

Santa Cruz, Bolivia
In response to catastrophic fires in 2024, the department of Santa Cruz established a Departmental Service for Integrated Fire Management – the first of its kind in the country. In addition to fuel reduction and other preventative fire management, they provide technical training, strategic equipment, and first-response tools to strengthen the community's operational

capacity in the event of an emergency. They also established a Comprehensive Monitoring Center and early warning system.

Barriers:

The participants identified several recurring obstacles that hinder the effective implementation of IFM in the Amazon region:

- Institutional Fragmentation: A notable disconnect exists between national policy frameworks and subnational implementation. Many subnational governments lack formal integration of IFM into their permanent public policies, relying instead on sporadic, project-specific support.
- Reactive Funding Models: Financial resources are largely tied to emergency response cycles. Funding typically arrives only when fires are active, preventing the allocation of sustained budgets for long-term prevention, capacity building, and equipment maintenance.
- Operational Inefficiencies: Community-based volunteer brigades, which are often first responders, operate with poor conditions and lack essential resources like transport, communication equipment, and specialized training.
- Devaluation of Traditional Knowledge: There remains a systemic undervaluation of ancestral fire practices, which are often viewed solely as risks rather than as strategic tools for landscape management and agricultural maintenance.
- Data and Information Gaps: While data is generated at the local level, it remains scattered and inaccessible. There is a lack of centralized, standardized, and user-friendly systems to convert this raw data into actionable decision-making tools for local administrators.

Priority Actions

To address these barriers, the session highlighted several essential actions for subnational and regional governments:

- Institutionalization of IFM Policies: Governments must move beyond pilots by creating dedicated units or services (e.g., a "Departmental Service for Integrated Fire Management") within their administrative structures to ensure continuity beyond political cycles and to shift focus to prevention, not just emergency response.
- Strengthening Community-Led Brigades: There is a critical need to formalize and equip local volunteer brigades with permanent funding, appropriate technology (drones, water pumps), and continuous technical training to improve operational efficacy.
- Increase operation funding and improve financial sustainability.
- Enhancing Data-Driven Decision Making: Developing and adopting advanced monitoring centers that provide near real-time fire alerts and predictive modeling (such as the

systems discussed by CTREES) is essential for proactive rather than reactive management.
- Horizontal and Vertical Coordination: Facilitating constant dialogue between neighboring jurisdictions, national governments, and international agencies is required to streamline bureaucratic processes and align terminology, training, and response protocols.
- Integrate ancestral and Indigenous knowledge: Promoting intercultural exchanges and involving Indigenous communities as key stakeholders and decision-makers in fire governance is vital to restoring the "culture of fire" and leveraging ancestral management strategies.

Emerging Opportunities

Despite the challenges, the session identified promising pathways for advancing IFM:
- Regional Networks and Agreements: Initiatives like the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization's Amazonian Network for Integrated Fire Management (Red Amazónica de Manejo Integral del Fuego, RAMIF) provide a robust framework for mutual assistance, knowledge exchange, and the scaling of successful experiences across borders. RAMIF recently organized ExpoMIF, an event to share best practices on IFM in the Amazon. The exchange resulted in dozens of voluntary agreements and 54 best practices and experiences, which can be found at https://www.expomif.org/
- Technological Innovation: Partnerships with scientific organizations and tech-hubs (e.g., CTREES, Conservation X Labs) are offering new tools for 3D fuel mapping, moisture monitoring, and physics-based fire behavior prediction, allowing for more precise preventative interventions.
- Philanthropic and International Investment: The launch of dedicated funds, such as the Conservation X Labs South America Fire Fund, demonstrates growing interest from international philanthropy to shift incentives from suppression to prevention and resilient governance.
- Model Success Stories: The experience of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, serves as a high-impact model for other jurisdictions, showing that developing comprehensive departmental policies and early warning systems can lead to a significant reduction in affected areas, even in challenging climate conditions.
- Inclusive Territorial Governance: There is an increasing recognition of the role of women and Indigenous leaders in fire management, providing an opportunity to build more resilient social fabrics by integrating diverse local perspectives into formal governance structures. See Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza initiative at https://www.fan-bo.org/index.php/que-hacemos/comunidades-y-ciudades-resilientes

b. Ecosystem Restoration: Case Studies, Challenges, and Pathways to Scale

MODERATORS:

- Syahrina D. Anggraini, GCF Task Force Indonesia Country Director
- Fakhri Rhamadian Hidayat, Country Coordination, GCF Task Force Indonesia

SPEAKERS:

- Hairil Anwar, Head of the Environmental Agency, West Kalimantan, Indonesia
- Magdalena Torres Abarca, Secretary of the Environment and Natural History, State of Chiapas, Mexico
- Nasly Fernanda Vidales González, Subsecretaria de Proyectos de Sostenibilidad Ambiental, Department of Valle del Cauca, Colombia
- Julio Cesar Benites, Regional Manager of Economic Development, Tumbes, Peru
- Andres Zuluaga, Conservation Director for the NASCA Region, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Blanca Lucía Echeverry, National Coordinator, IRI Colombia, Interfaith Rainforest Initiative

PARTICIPANTS:

- Marcello Lelis, Secretary of the Environment, Water Resources, and Climate, Tocantins, Brazil
- Francisca Arara, Special Secretary for Indigenous Peoples - SEPI, Acre, Brazil
- Jaksilande Araújo de Lima, President of the Institute on Climate Change (IMC), Acre, Brazil
- Estiko Wiradyo, Head of the Planning Division, Forestry and Environment Agency, Papua, Indonesia
- Neyra Silva Rosado, Secretary of Sustainable Development, State of Yucatán, Mexico
- Daniel Graf Peréz, Director General of Natural Resources, Jalisco, Mexico
- Jimmy Walter Susanto, Head of the Forestry Department, Papua Barat, Indonesia
- Luis Giovanni Santos González, Subsecretary of the Environment and Natural Resources, Tabasco, Mexico
- Diogo Martins Rosa, Director of Climate Governance, SEDAM, Rondônia, Brazil
- Maria Beatriz Saldanha, Consultant, Environmental Defense Fund - EDF
- Luciana Carrijo, Project Specialist - Environment and Climate Change, United Nations Development Programme - UNDP
- Willinton Murillo Quinto, COCOMACIA REDD+ Team Lead, Terra Global Capital
- Nicia Coutinho, Director for Brazil - ICGT, Forest Trends

Restoration involves not only recovering vegetation cover, but also rebuilding ecological functions, strengthening livelihoods, reducing pressures on forests and wetlands, mobilizing financing, integrating scientific and local knowledge, and building long-term community capacity. This session identified recurring gaps: insufficient funding, monitoring difficulties, need for field validation, limited coordination between levels of government, regulatory gaps, dependence on external cooperation, and need for public policy instruments with continuity.

Restoration: more than a technical intervention

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), presented restoration as a central component of nature-based climate solutions. Strict conservation and restoration approaches in productive landscapes should not be seen as opposing forces, but rather as complementary. Jurisdictional climate strategies should integrate forest restoration, avoided deforestation, and agroforestry, with priority areas identified based on cost-effectiveness.

The Interfaith Tropical Forest Initiative stressed that restoration cannot be conceived solely as a technical intervention. Restoration requires trust, social legitimacy, community leadership, dialogue among different forms of knowledge, and the defense of rights. Their priority actions include strengthening community and faith networks; promoting territorial communication processes; including Indigenous peoples, women, youth, social leaders and local governments; and making restoration a shared responsibility.

Jurisdictional experiences

Tumbes, Peru, presented a project focused on generating maps using satellite imagery to identify degraded areas and guide ecological restoration projects. There is a need for geographic, ecological, and field data to prioritize decision-making.

Cauca, Colombia, has a forestry development plan that includes alignment of environmental planning, watershed management and bioeconomy; promotes legal harvesting and timber traceability; characterizes NTFPs; and promotes incentives for conservation and environmental compensation.

West Kalimantan, Indonesia shared their peatland restoration strategy, which is structured around three components: rewetting, revegetation, and economic revitalization. The workflow includes implementing rewetting infrastructure; building nurseries; revegetating burned or degraded areas; promoting multipurpose species; regulating local use; and supporting communities with capital, training, and alternative livelihoods. It was noted that there are similarities between the tropical forests of Borneo and Caquetá.

Chiapas, Mexico, presented their micro-watershed restoration and cleanup program. The initiative included soil and water conservation, terracing, living barriers, reforestation, firebreaks, fuel-efficient stoves, and community job creation. State public resources were invested in micro-watersheds, and ejido (community agricultural land) members and communities were paid for restoration work.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Priority next steps:

- **Create GCF Task Force roadmaps for:**
  - **Traceability/deforestation-free commodities**
  - **Environmental organized crime**
  - **Regional bioeconomy facilities**
- **Promote knowledge sharing and exchange:** Position the GCF Task Force as a central platform/repository for open-source tools (e.g., Green Seal, Digital CAR, Green Passport) and technical best practices. Promote both intercultural exchanges and technical exchanges within and across jurisdictions.
- **Expand direct and flexible financing mechanisms:** Explore targeted structures, such as a GCF Task Force revolving fund, to cover readiness, verification, and transition costs for smallholders.
- **Improve technical assistance and capacity building:** Provide small producers with dedicated support on georeferencing, land regularization, and platform adoption to prevent market exclusion.
- **Address institutional fragmentation and political instability:** Promote dialogue and alignment between all levels of government, IPLCs, and other stakeholders. Institutionalize policies to ensure continuity beyond political cycles.

These working sessions demonstrated that subnational governments and community leaders are actively driving practical frameworks to build a New Forest Economy. To maintain forward momentum, the GCF Task Force must now leverage its network to align fragmented systems, secure equitable access to finance, and ensure that rigorous sustainability standards protect smallholders and Indigenous communities. In addition, the GCF Task Force will mitigate political instability by providing continuity with newly elected governors and newly appointed civil servants in this year of high political turnover. Together, with our nine new member jurisdictions, we will continue the work of building a New Forest Economy.